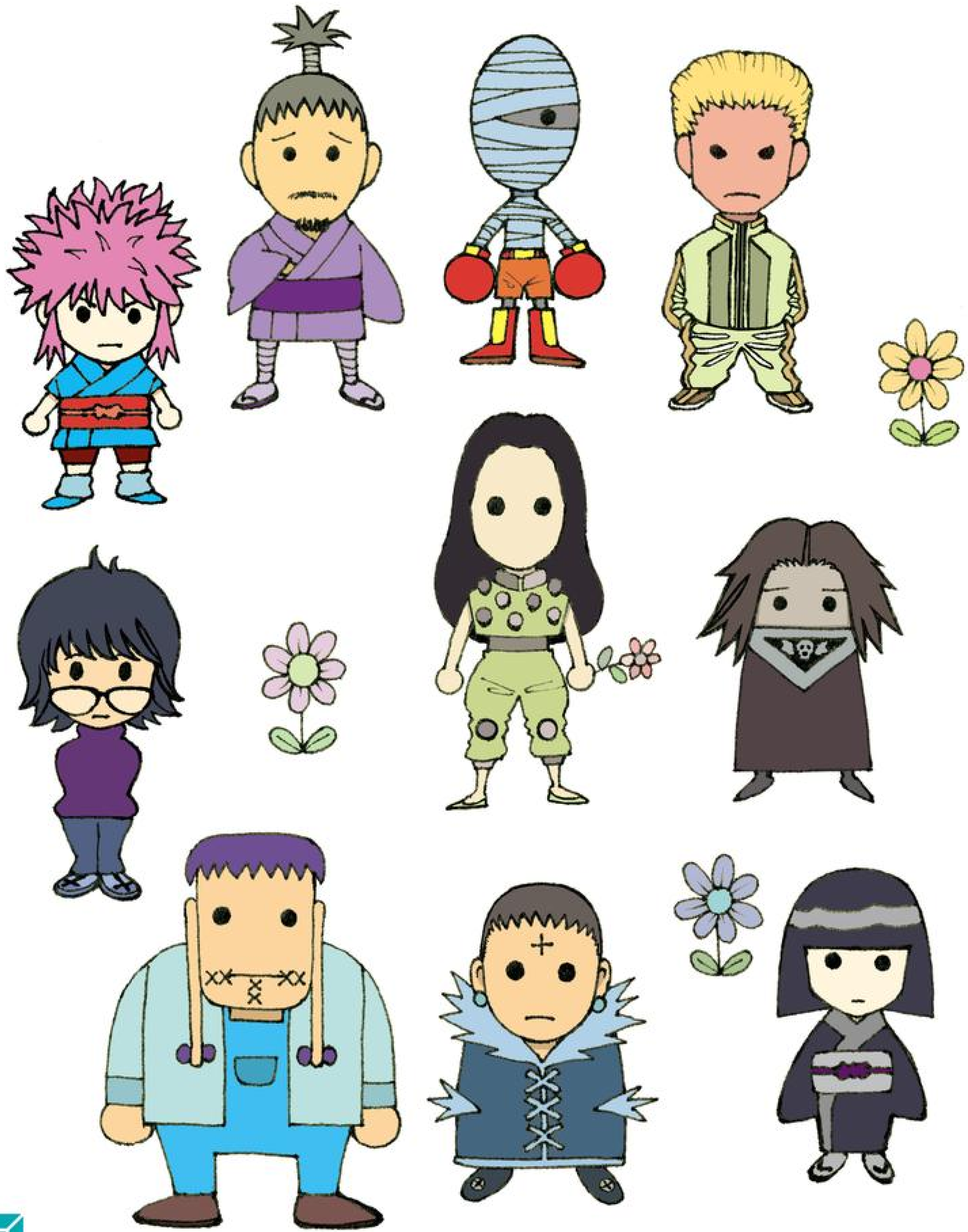


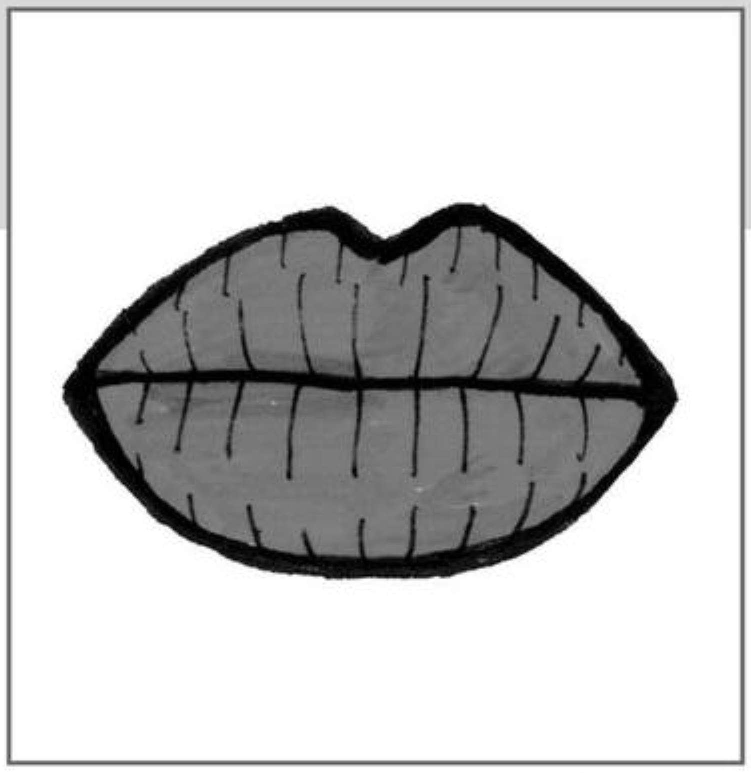
HUNTER×HUNTER

ハンター×ハンター

36

Story & Art by

YOSHIHIRO TOGASHI



冨樫義博

Spoilers, I dare say.

Yoshihiro Togashi

Yoshihiro Togashi's manga career began in 1986 at the age of 20, when he won the coveted Osamu Tezuka Award for new manga artists. He debuted in the Japanese **Weekly Shonen Jump** magazine in 1989 with the romantic comedy **Tende Shôwaru Cupid**. From 1990 to 1994 he wrote and drew the hit manga **YuYu Hakusho**, which was followed by the dark comedy science-fiction series **Level E**, and finally this adventure series, **Hunter x Hunter**, available from VIZ Media's SHONEN JUMP imprint. In 1999 he married the manga artist Naoko Takeuchi.

HUNTER X HUNTER Volume 36
SHONEN JUMP Manga Edition

STORY AND ART BY
YOSHIHIRO TOGASHI

English Adaptation & Translation/Lillian Olsen
Touch-up Art & Lettering/Mark McMurray
Design/Matt Hinrichs
Shonen Jump Series Editor/Urian Brown
Graphic Novel Editor/Marlene First

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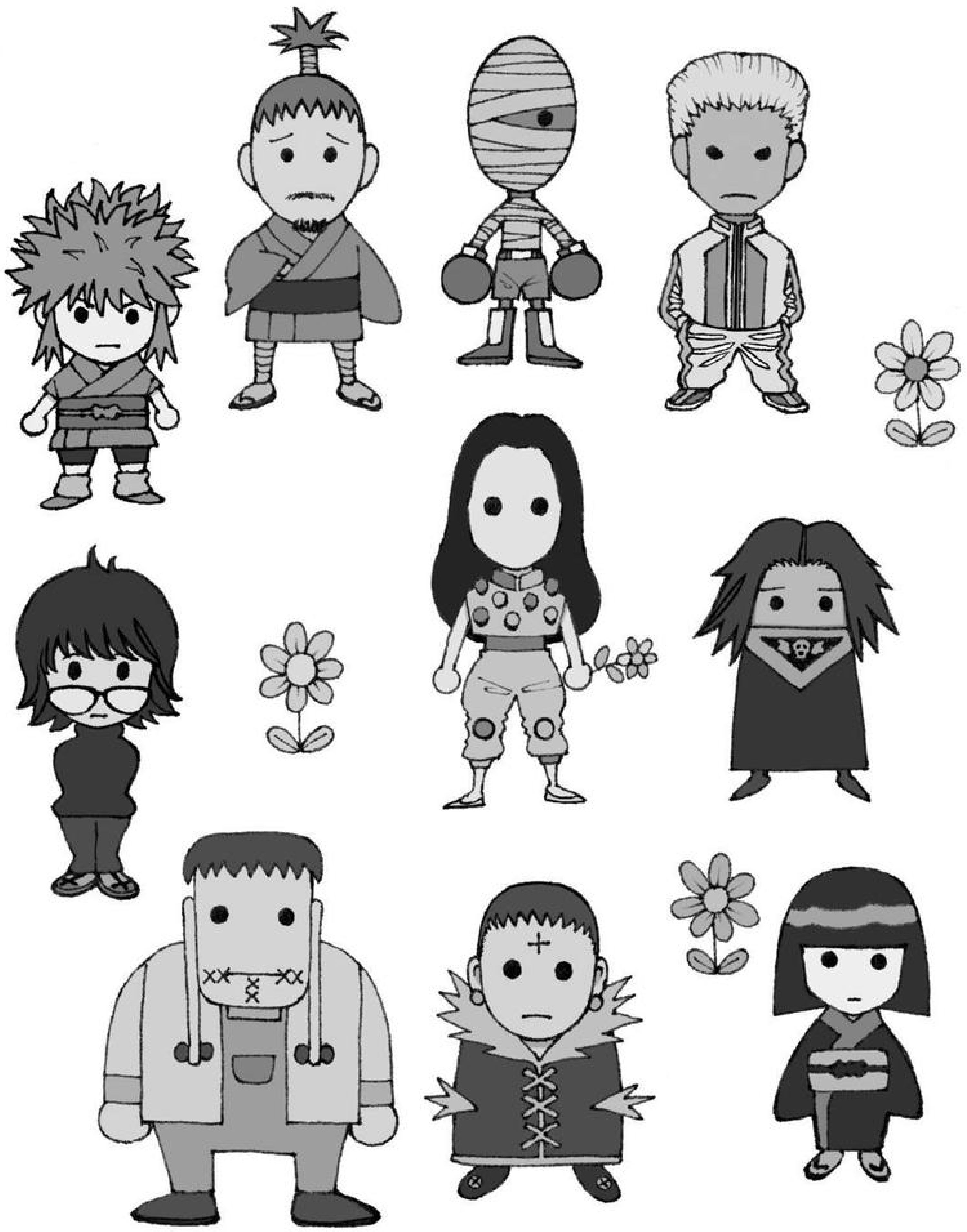
PARENTAL ADVISORY
HUNTER X HUNTER is rated T+ for Older Teen and is recommended for ages 16 and up. It contains realistic violence and mature language.

SHONEN JUMP
shonenjump.com

SHONEN JUMP MANGA



HUNTER×HUNTER

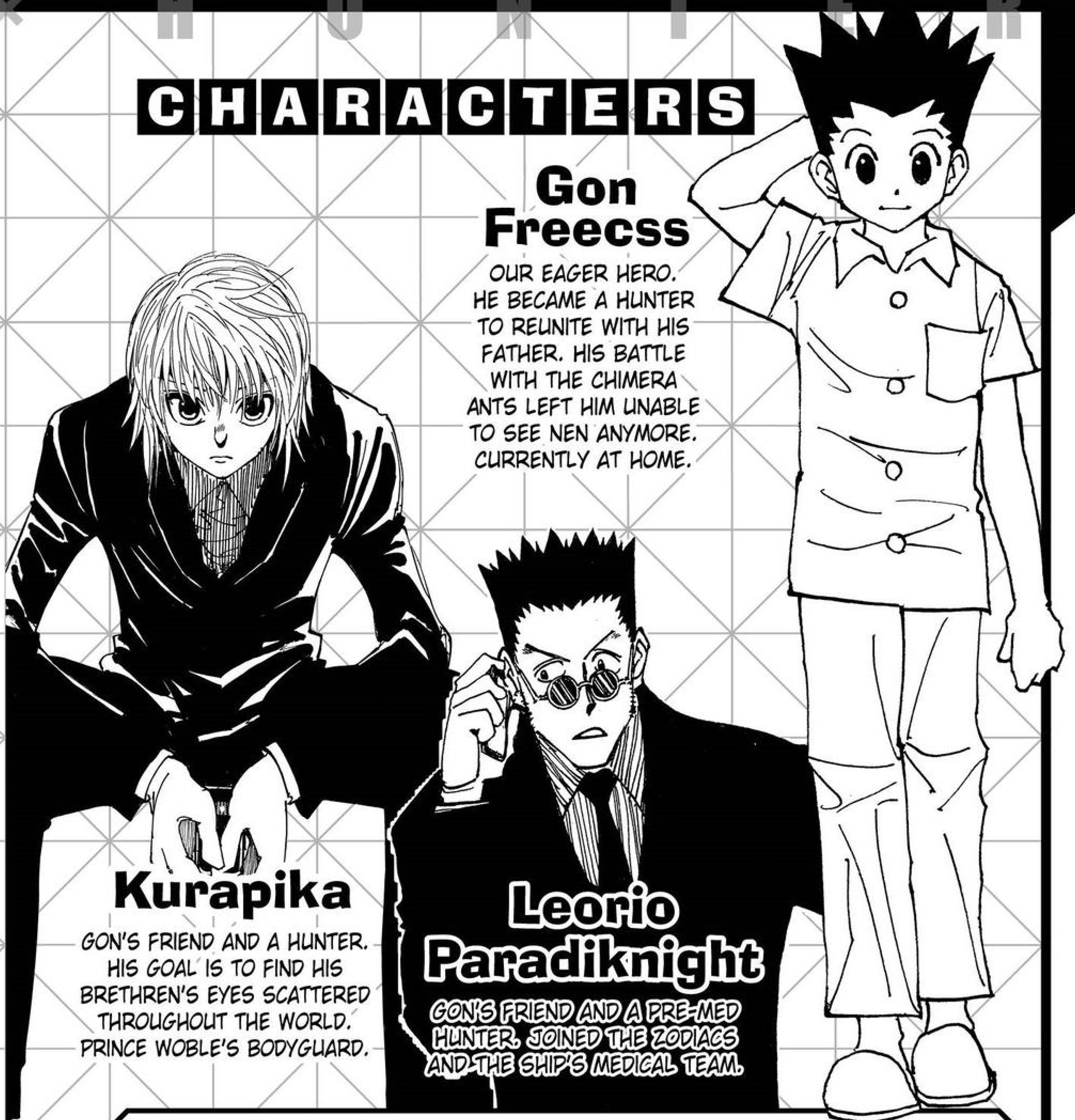
ハンター×ハンター

Story & Art by

Yoshihiro Togashi

Volume 36

CHARACTERS



Gon Freecss

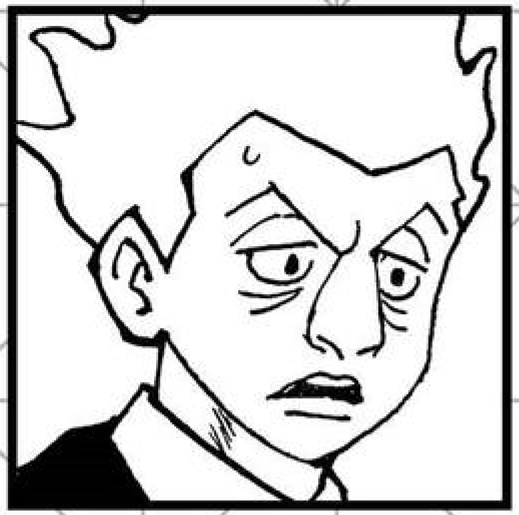
OUR EAGER HERO. HE BECAME A HUNTER TO REUNITE WITH HIS FATHER. HIS BATTLE WITH THE CHIMERA ANTS LEFT HIM UNABLE TO SEE NEN ANYMORE. CURRENTLY AT HOME.

Kurapika

GON'S FRIEND AND A HUNTER. HIS GOAL IS TO FIND HIS BRETHREN'S EYES SCATTERED THROUGHOUT THE WORLD. PRINCE WOBLE'S BODYGUARD.

Leorio Paradiknight

GON'S FRIEND AND A PRE-MED HUNTER. JOINED THE ZODIACS AND THE SHIP'S MEDICAL TEAM.

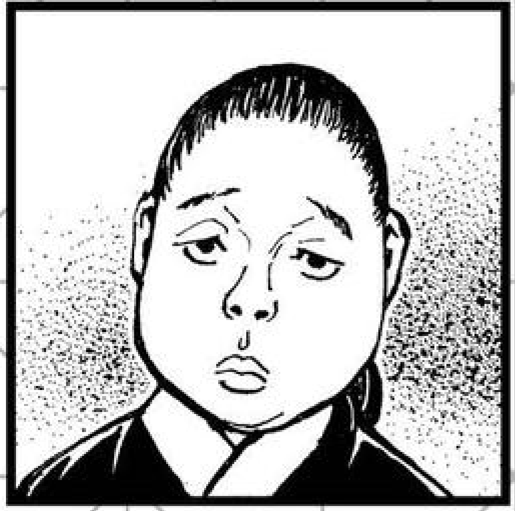


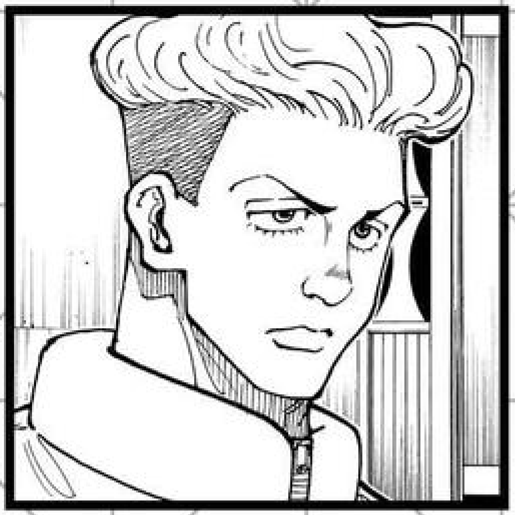
Bill

ONE OF THE PRINCE'S BODYGUARDS, HIRED THROUGH PARISTON. HE WAS NOT TOLD OF THE BATTLE FOR SUCCESSION.

Shimanu

THE LONE SURVIVOR OF PRINCE WOBLE'S SERVANTS. HER CRITICAL ASSESSMENT SKILLS EARNED HER KURAPIKA'S RESPECT.

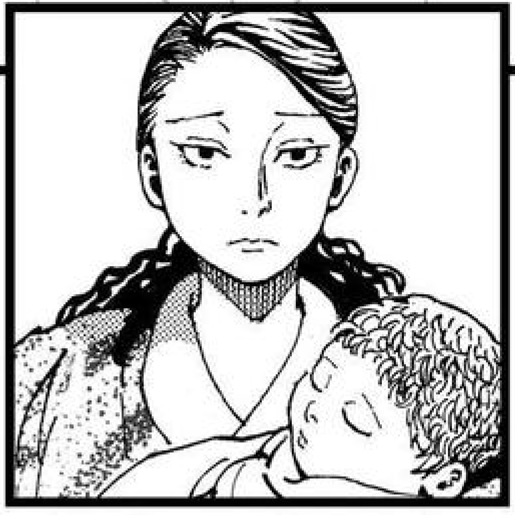




Babimyna

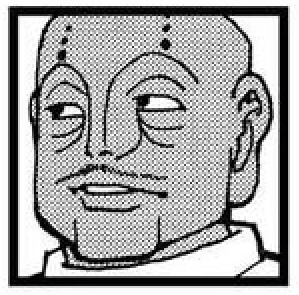
THE FIRST PRINCE'S PRIVATE BODYGUARD. CURRENTLY GUARDING PRINCE WOBLE IN PLACE OF VINCENT, WHO ATTACKED KURAPIKA.

Kakin Princes



Prince Woble and Oito

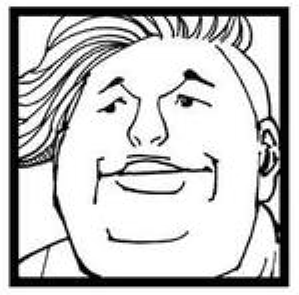
THE 14TH PRINCE OF KAKIN AND HER MOTHER. KURAPIKA HAS BEEN HIRED TO PROTECT THEM.



THIRD PRINCE ZHANG LEI

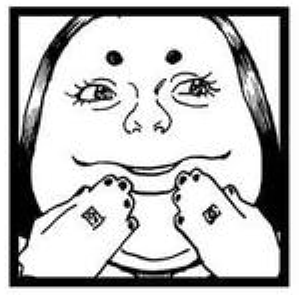
SECOND PRINCE CAMILLA

FIRST PRINCE BENJAMIN



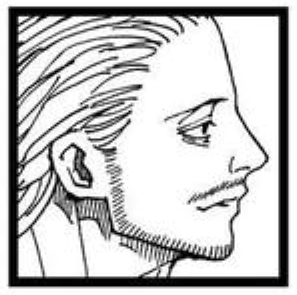
EIGHTH PRINCE SALÉ-SALÉ

SEVENTH PRINCE LUZURUS

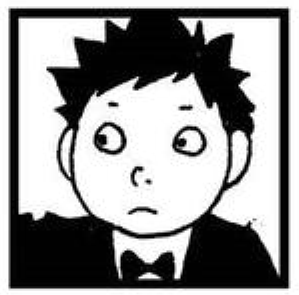


SIXTH PRINCE TYSON

FIFTH PRINCE TUBEPPA

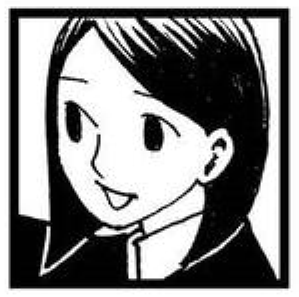


FOURTH PRINCE TSERRIEDNICH

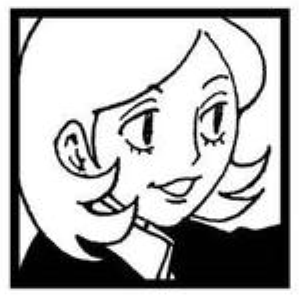


THIRTEENTH PRINCE MARAYAM

TWELTH PRINCE MOMOZE



ELEVENTH PRINCE FUGETSU



TENTH PRINCE KACHO

NINTH PRINCE HALKENBURG

The Story Thus Far

GON DREAMS OF BEING A HUNTER LIKE THE FATHER HE HARDLY REMEMBERS, THE GREAT GING FREECSS. HE REUNITES WITH GING'S OLD FRIEND KITE AND ENCOUNTERS THE CHIMERA ANTS. THE HUNTER ASSOCIATION SENDS OUR HEROES TO STORM THE PALACE IN E. GORTEAU TO DEFEAT THE ANTS. MANKIND IS VICTORIOUS, BUT AT THE COST OF HUNTER ASSOCIATION CHAIRMAN NETERO'S LIFE. AN ELECTION IS HELD TO PICK THE NEXT CHAIRMAN, AND CHEEDLE OF THE ZODIACS IS PICKED. GON, CRITICALLY WOUNDED, IS HEALED BY ALLUKA, KILLUA'S SISTER.

NETERO'S SON, BEYOND, ANNOUNCES A VOYAGE TO THE DARK CONTINENT TO THE ENTIRE WORLD. ONBOARD THE SHIP, THE BATTLE FOR THE THRONE OF THE KAKIN KINGDOM IS SET TO TAKE PLACE DURING THE JOURNEY. KURAPIKA IS HIRED TO BE A BODYGUARD FOR THE FOURTEENTH PRINCE, BUT SOON AFTER DEPARTURE, THE ROSTER OF BODYGUARDS IS DOWN TO ONLY KURAPIKA AND BILL. THINGS KEEP HAPPENING ONE AFTER THE OTHER!

HUNTER×HUNTER

Volume 36

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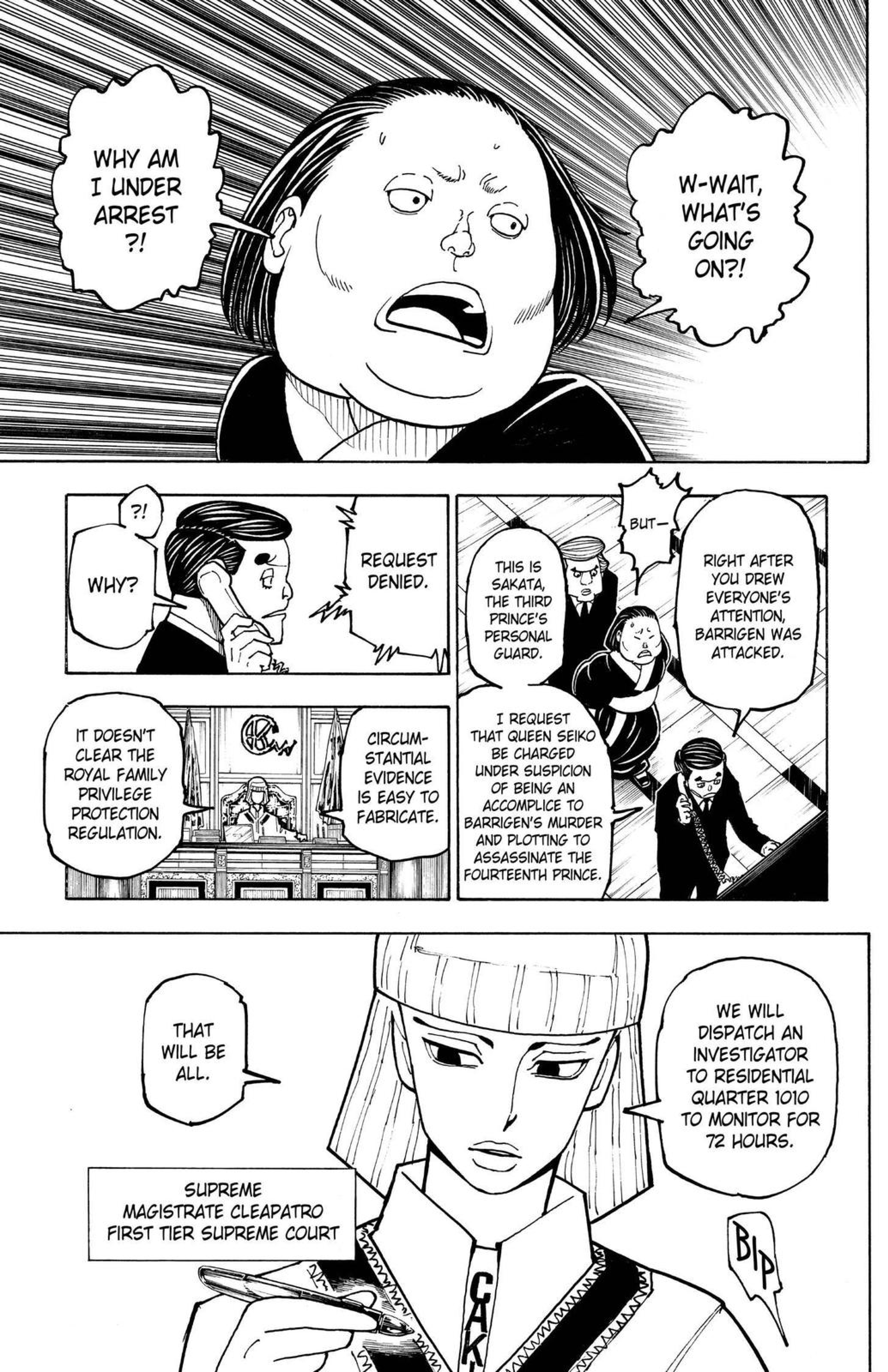
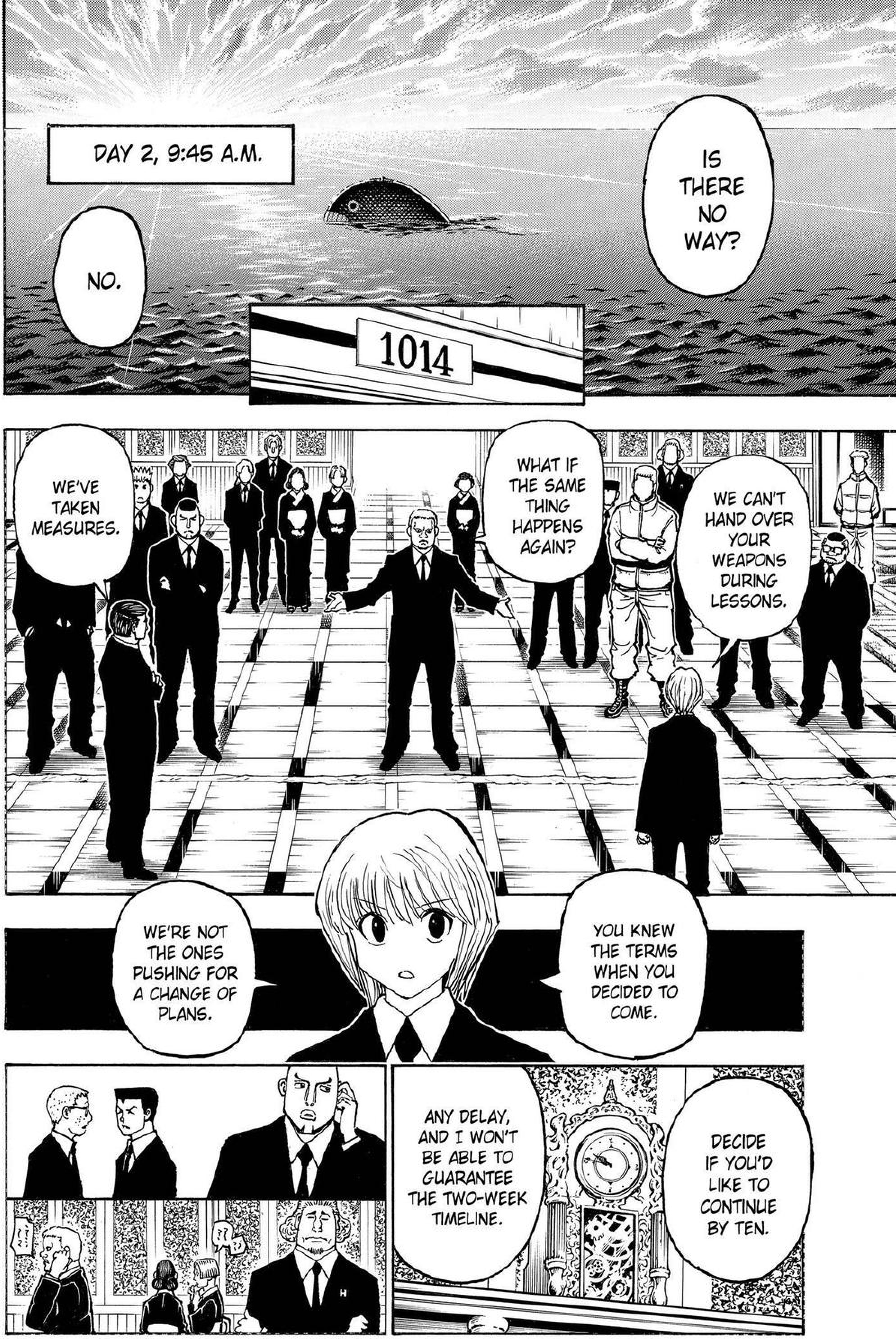
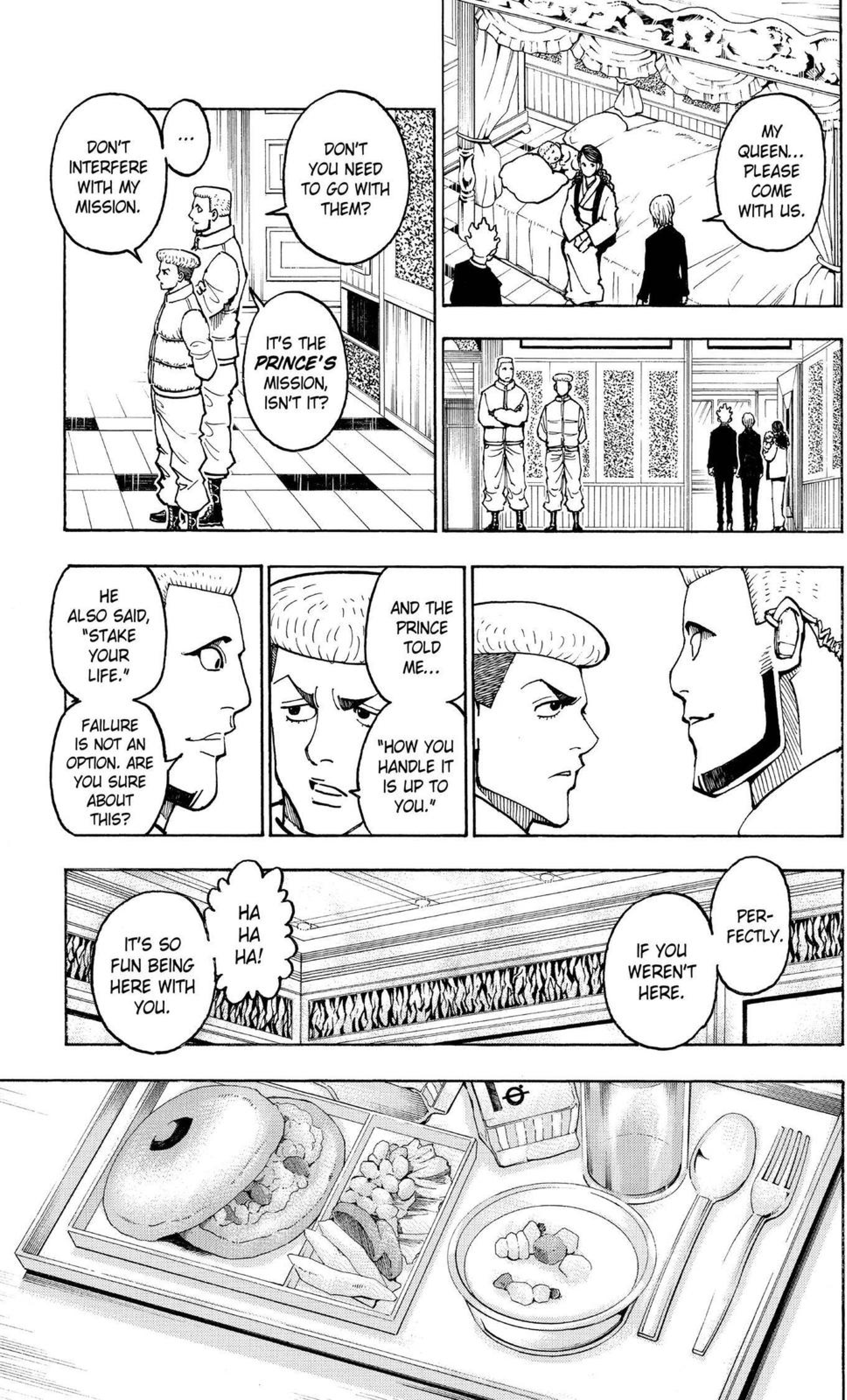
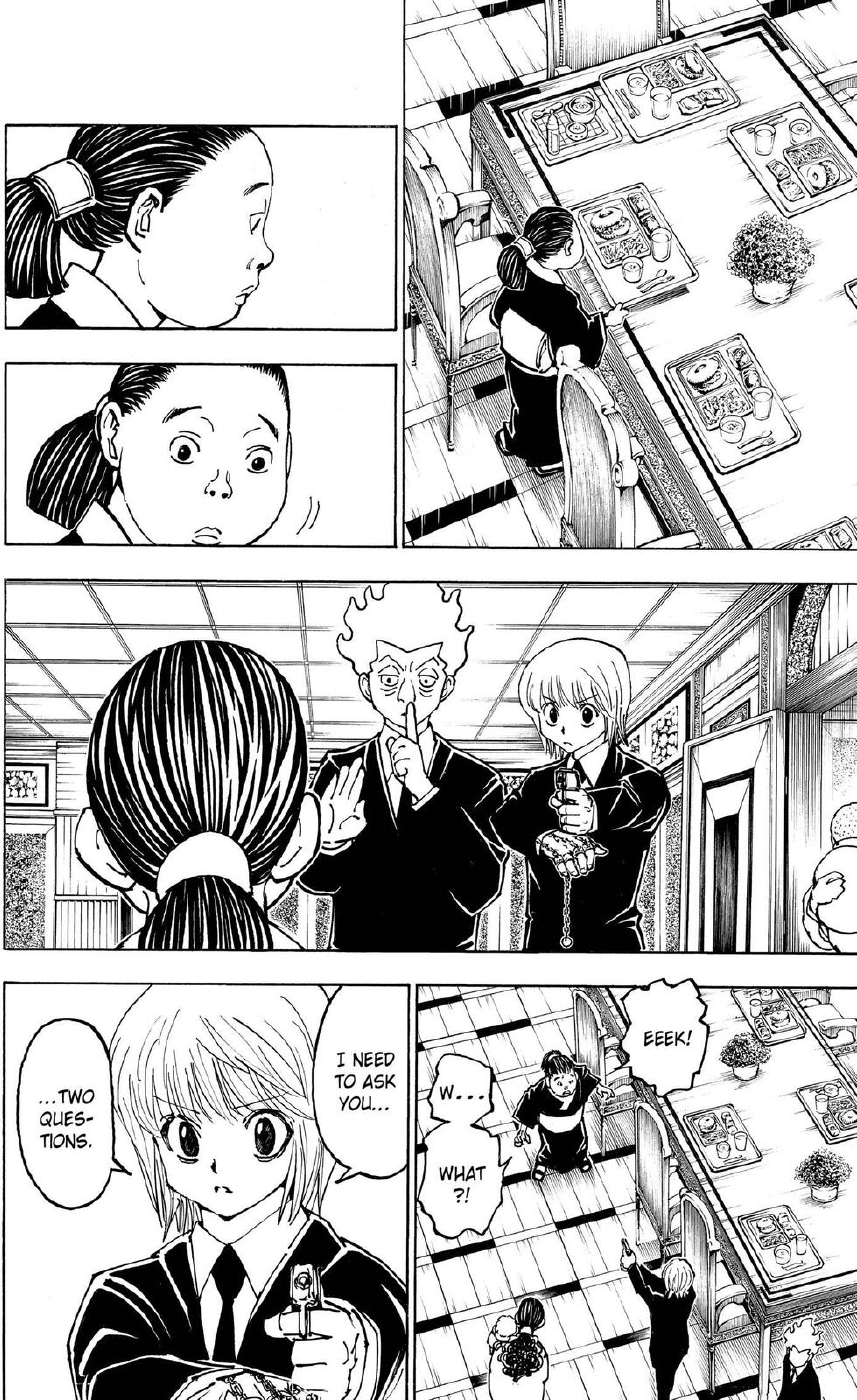
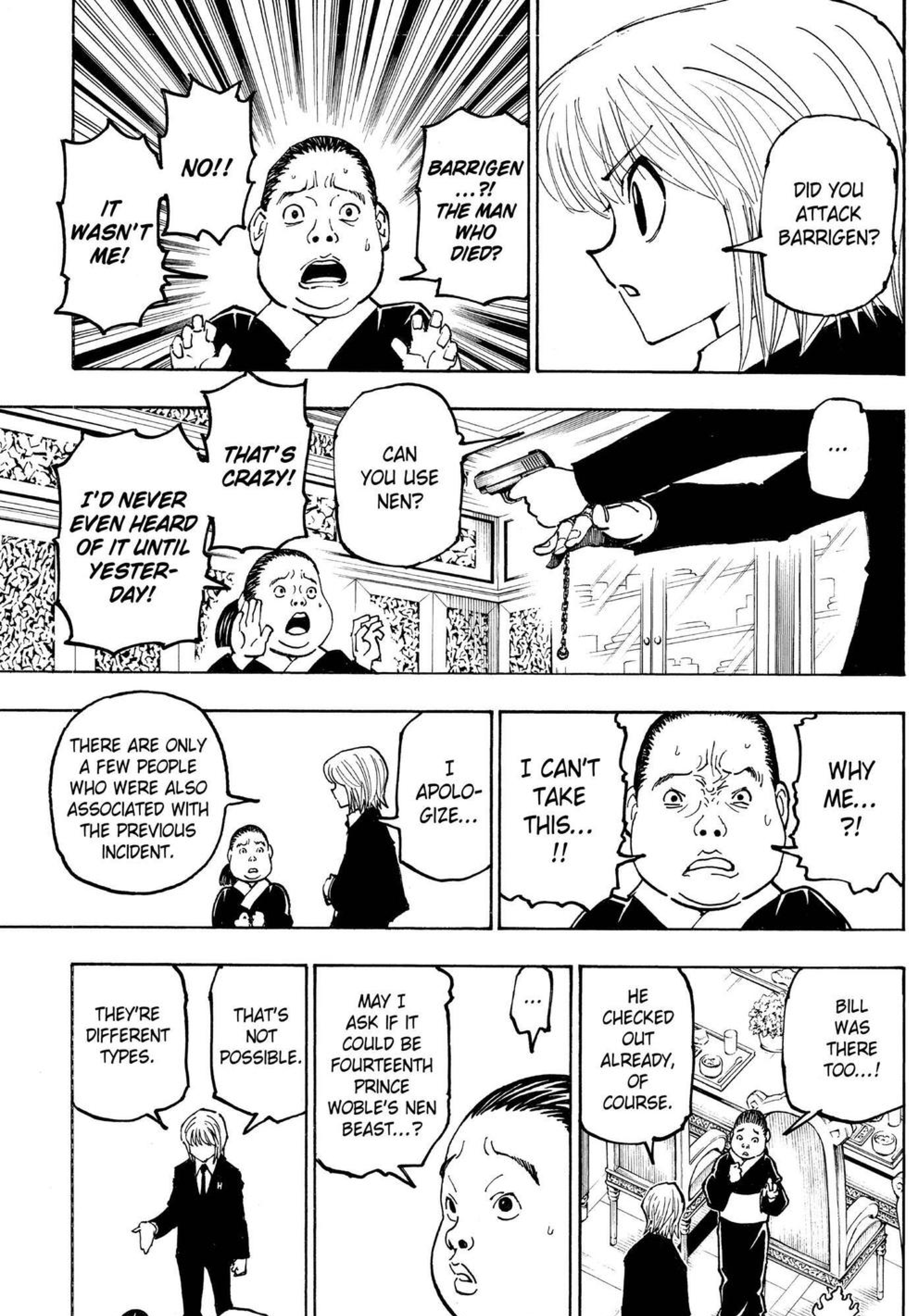
Chapter 371: Mission

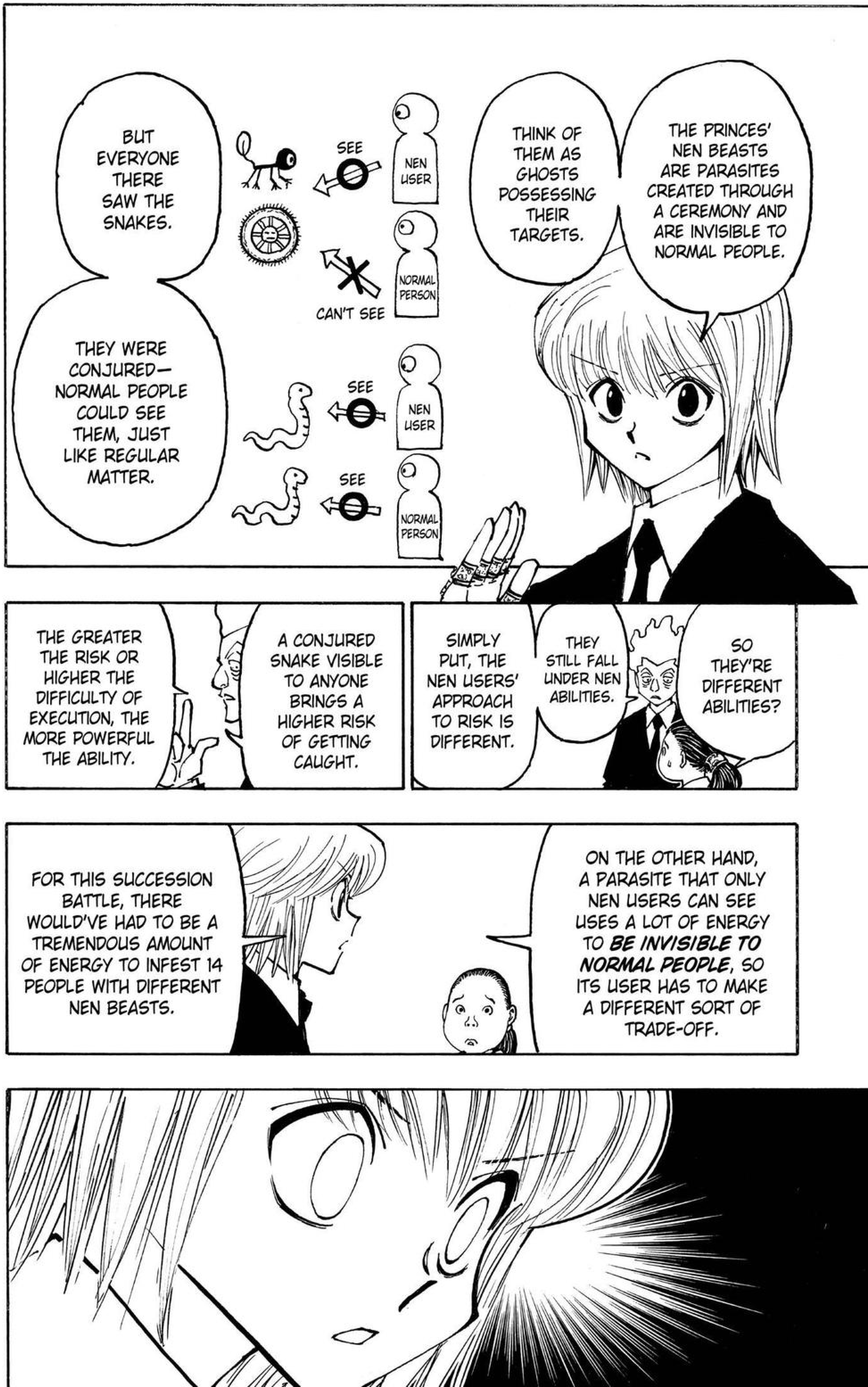

W-WAIT, WHAT'S GOING ON?!
WHY AM I UNDER ARREST?!
RIGHT AFTER YOU DREW EVERYONE'S ATTENTION, BARRIGEN WAS ATTACKED.
BUT—
THIS IS SAKATA, THE THIRD PRINCE'S PERSONAL GUARD.
I REQUEST THAT QUEEN SEIKO BE CHARGED UNDER SUSPICION OF BEING AN ACCOMPLICE TO BARRIGEN'S MURDER AND PLOTTING TO ASSASSINATE THE FOURTEENTH PRINCE.
REQUEST DENIED.
?!
WHY?
CIRCUMSTANTIAL EVIDENCE IS EASY TO FABRICATE.
IT DOESN'T CLEAR THE ROYAL FAMILY PRIVILEGE PROTECTION REGULATION.
WE WILL DISPATCH AN INVESTIGATOR TO RESIDENTIAL QUARTER 1010 TO MONITOR FOR 72 HOURS.
THAT WILL BE ALL.
SUPREME MAGISTRATE CLEAPATRO FIRST TIER SUPREME COURT
BIP

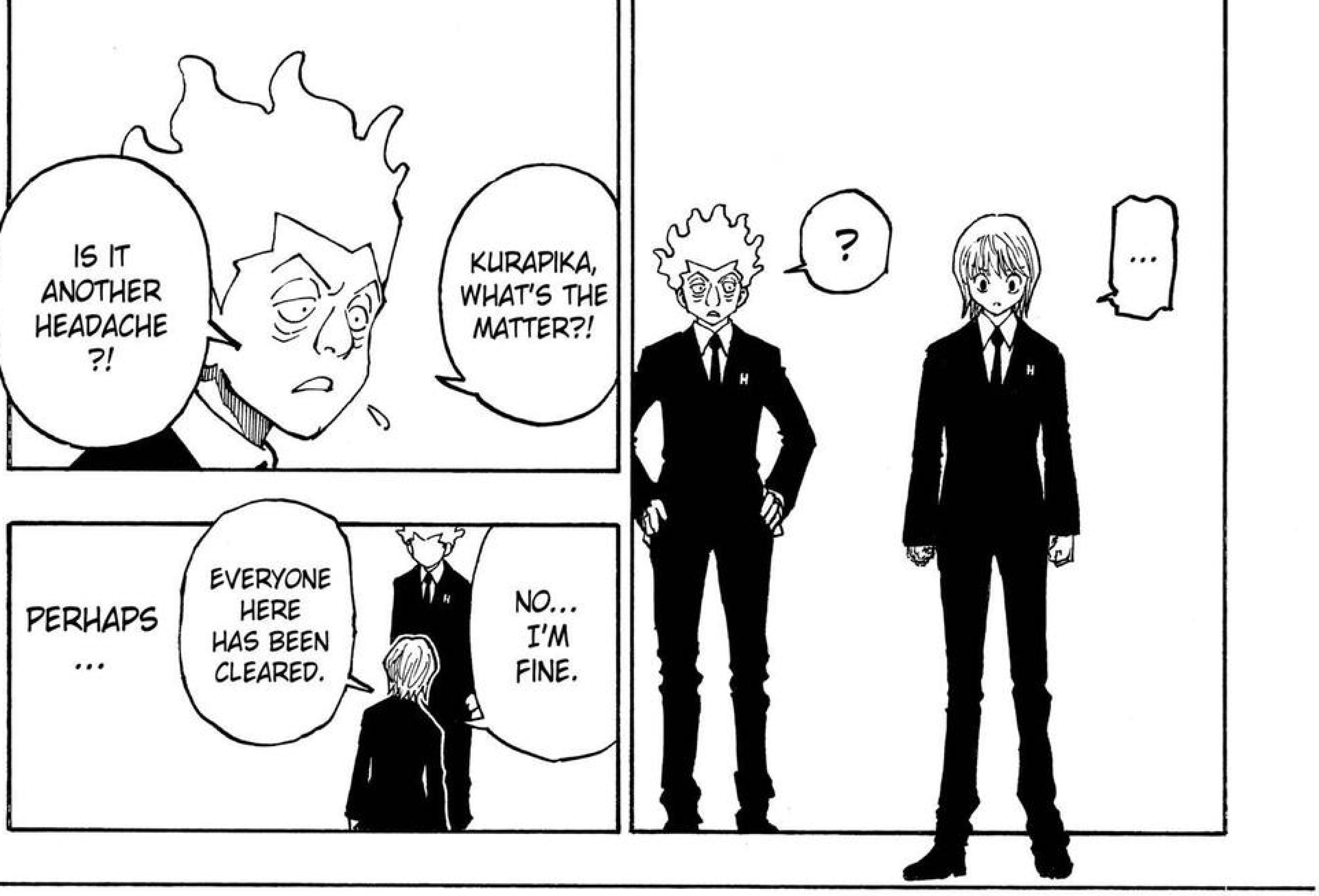

DAY 2, 9:45 A.M.
IS THERE NO WAY?
NO.
1014
WE CAN'T HAND OVER YOUR WEAPONS DURING LESSONS.
WHAT IF THE SAME THING HAPPENS AGAIN?
WE'VE TAKEN MEASURES.
YOU KNEW THE TERMS WHEN YOU DECIDED TO COME.
WE'RE NOT THE ONES PUSHING FOR A CHANGE OF PLANS.
DECIDE IF YOU'D LIKE TO CONTINUE BY TEN.
ANY DELAY, AND I WON'T BE ABLE TO GUARANTEE THE TWO-WEEK TIMELINE.


MY QUEEN… PLEASE COME WITH US.
DON'T YOU NEED TO GO WITH THEM?
…
DON'T INTERFERE WITH MY MISSION.
IT'S THE *PRINCE'S* MISSION, ISN'T IT?
AND THE PRINCE TOLD ME…
"HOW YOU HANDLE IT IS UP TO YOU."
HE ALSO SAID, "STAKE YOUR LIFE."
FAILURE IS NOT AN OPTION. ARE YOU SURE ABOUT THIS?
PERFECTLY.
IF YOU WEREN'T HERE.
HA HA HA!
IT'S SO FUN BEING HERE WITH YOU.


EEEK!
W...
WHAT?!
I NEED TO ASK YOU...
...TWO QUESTIONS.

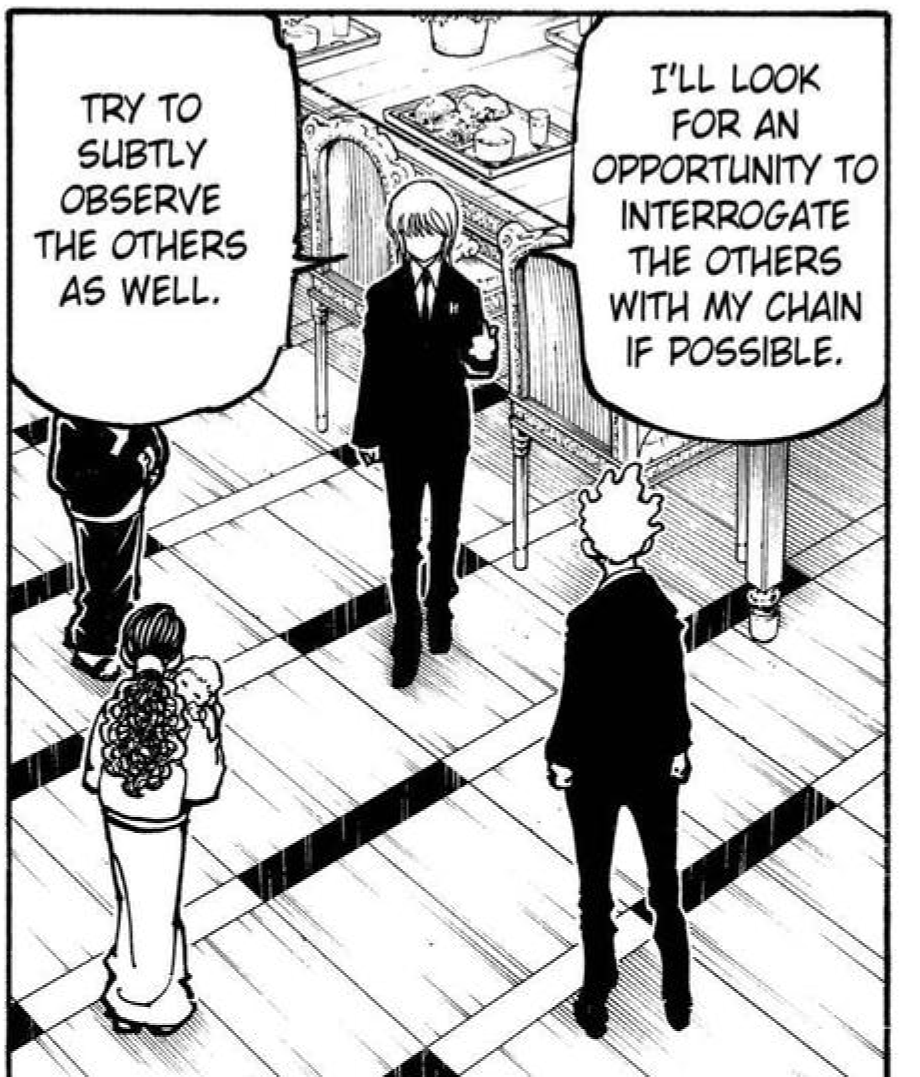

DID YOU ATTACK BARRIGEN?
BARRIGEN ...?! THE MAN WHO DIED?
NO!!
IT WASN'T ME!
...
CAN YOU USE NEN?
THAT'S CRAZY!
I'D NEVER EVEN HEARD OF IT UNTIL YESTERDAY!
WHY ME...?!
I CAN'T TAKE THIS...!!
I APOLOGIZE...
THERE ARE ONLY A FEW PEOPLE WHO WERE ALSO ASSOCIATED WITH THE PREVIOUS INCIDENT.
BILL WAS THERE TOO...!
HE CHECKED OUT ALREADY, OF COURSE.
...
MAY I ASK IF IT COULD BE FOURTEENTH PRINCE WOBLE'S NEN BEAST...?
THAT'S NOT POSSIBLE.
THEY'RE DIFFERENT TYPES.
?

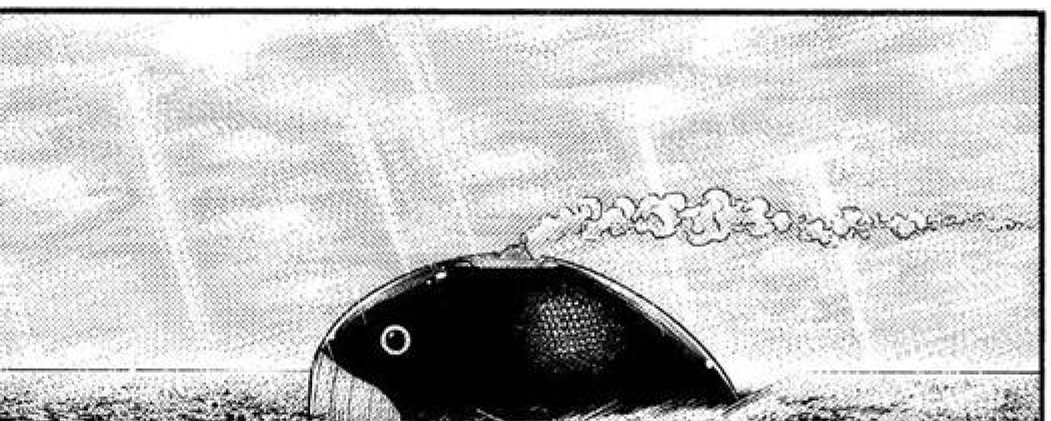

THE PRINCES' NEN BEASTS ARE PARASITES CREATED THROUGH A CEREMONY AND ARE INVISIBLE TO NORMAL PEOPLE.
THINK OF THEM AS GHOSTS POSSESSING THEIR TARGETS.
NEN USER
SEE
NORMAL PERSON
CAN'T SEE
BUT EVERYONE THERE SAW THE SNAKES.
THEY WERE CONJURED—NORMAL PEOPLE COULD SEE THEM, JUST LIKE REGULAR MATTER.
NEN USER
SEE
NORMAL PERSON
SEE
SO THEY'RE DIFFERENT ABILITIES?
THEY STILL FALL UNDER NEN ABILITIES.
SIMPLY PUT, THE NEN USERS' APPROACH TO RISK IS DIFFERENT.
A CONJURED SNAKE VISIBLE TO ANYONE BRINGS A HIGHER RISK OF GETTING CAUGHT.
THE GREATER THE RISK OR HIGHER THE DIFFICULTY OF EXECUTION, THE MORE POWERFUL THE ABILITY.
ON THE OTHER HAND, A PARASITE THAT ONLY NEN USERS CAN SEE USES A LOT OF ENERGY TO ***BE INVISIBLE TO NORMAL PEOPLE***, SO ITS USER HAS TO MAKE A DIFFERENT SORT OF TRADE-OFF.
FOR THIS SUCCESSION BATTLE, THERE WOULD'VE HAD TO BE A TREMENDOUS AMOUNT OF ENERGY TO INFEST 14 PEOPLE WITH DIFFERENT NEN BEASTS.

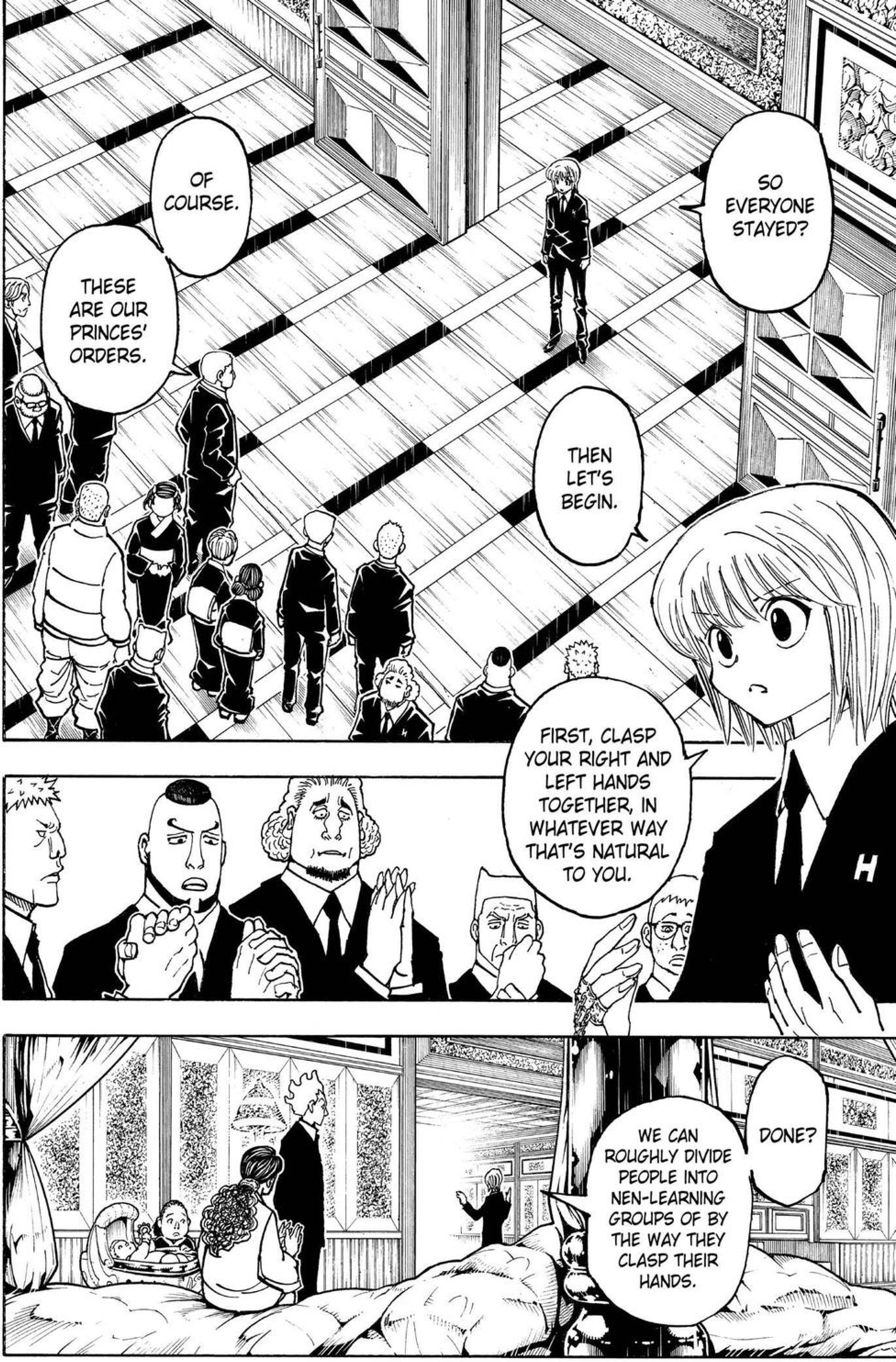

…
?
KURAPIKA, WHAT'S THE MATTER?!
IS IT ANOTHER HEADACHE ?!
NO… I'M FINE.
EVERYONE HERE HAS BEEN CLEARED.
PERHAPS …

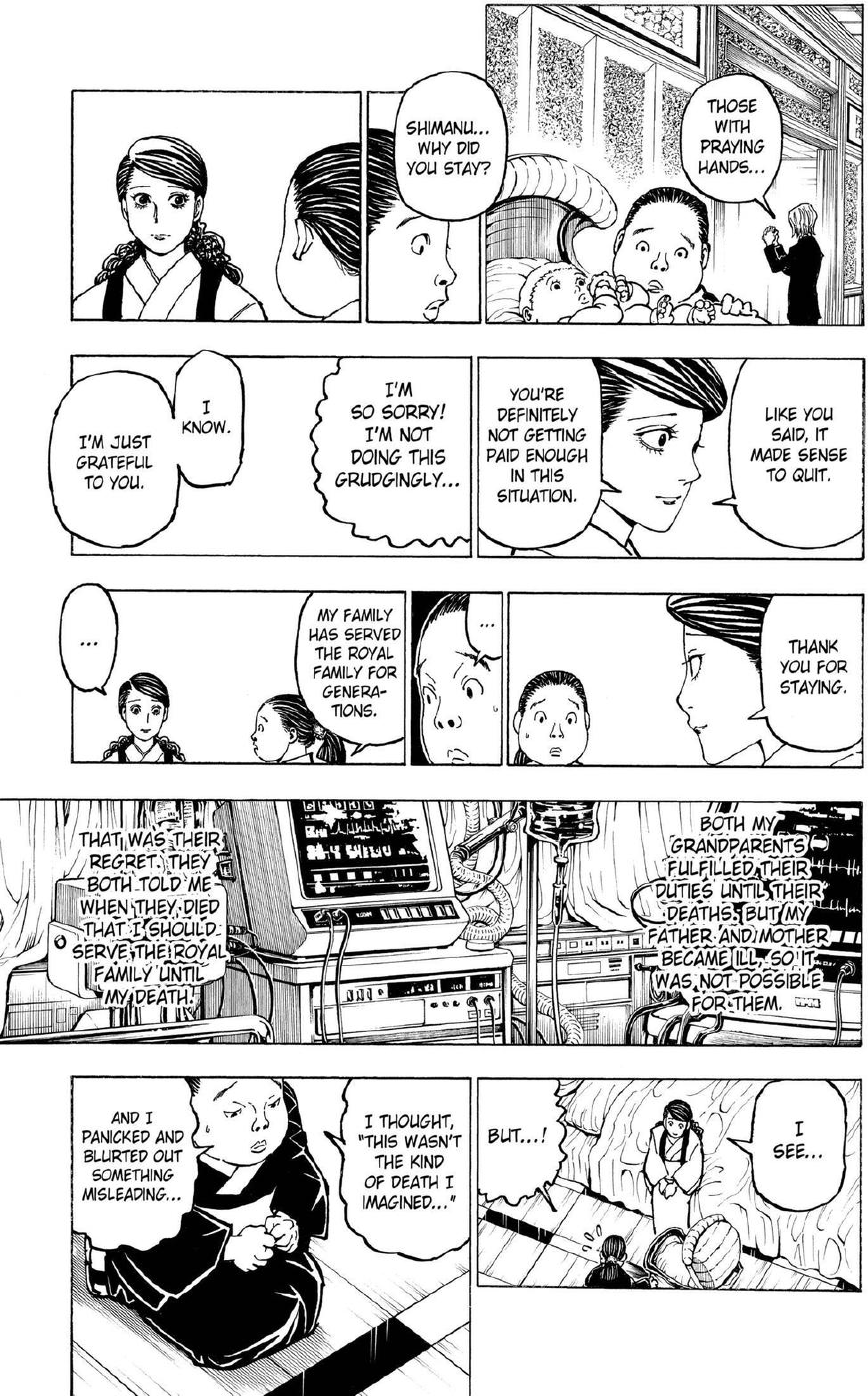
…IF JUST ONE PERSON COULD WITHDRAW FROM THE SUCCESSION BATTLE…

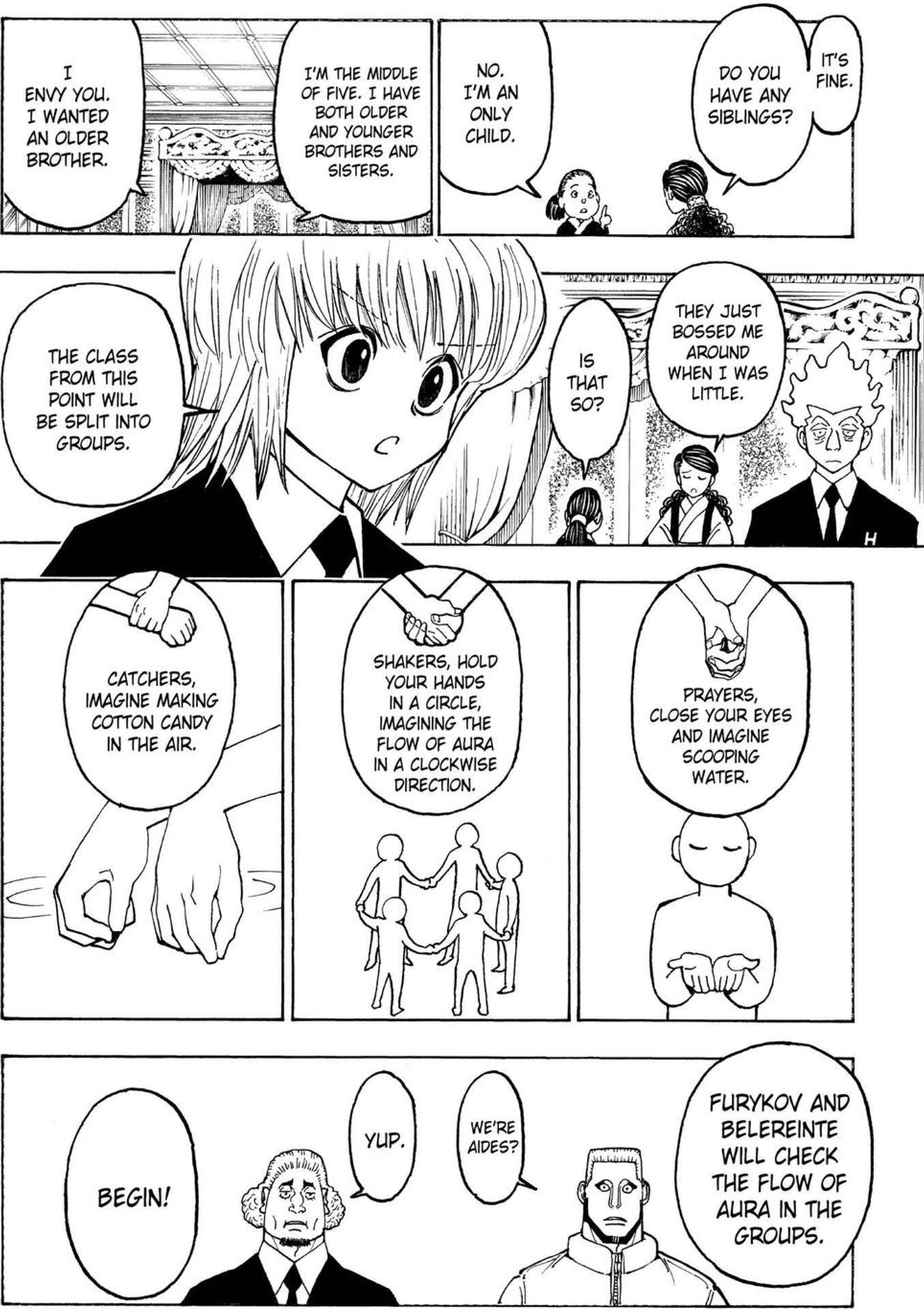
…THE RISK-REWARD TRADE-OFF WOULD COLLAPSE AND ALL NEN BEASTS MIGHT VANISH…?!

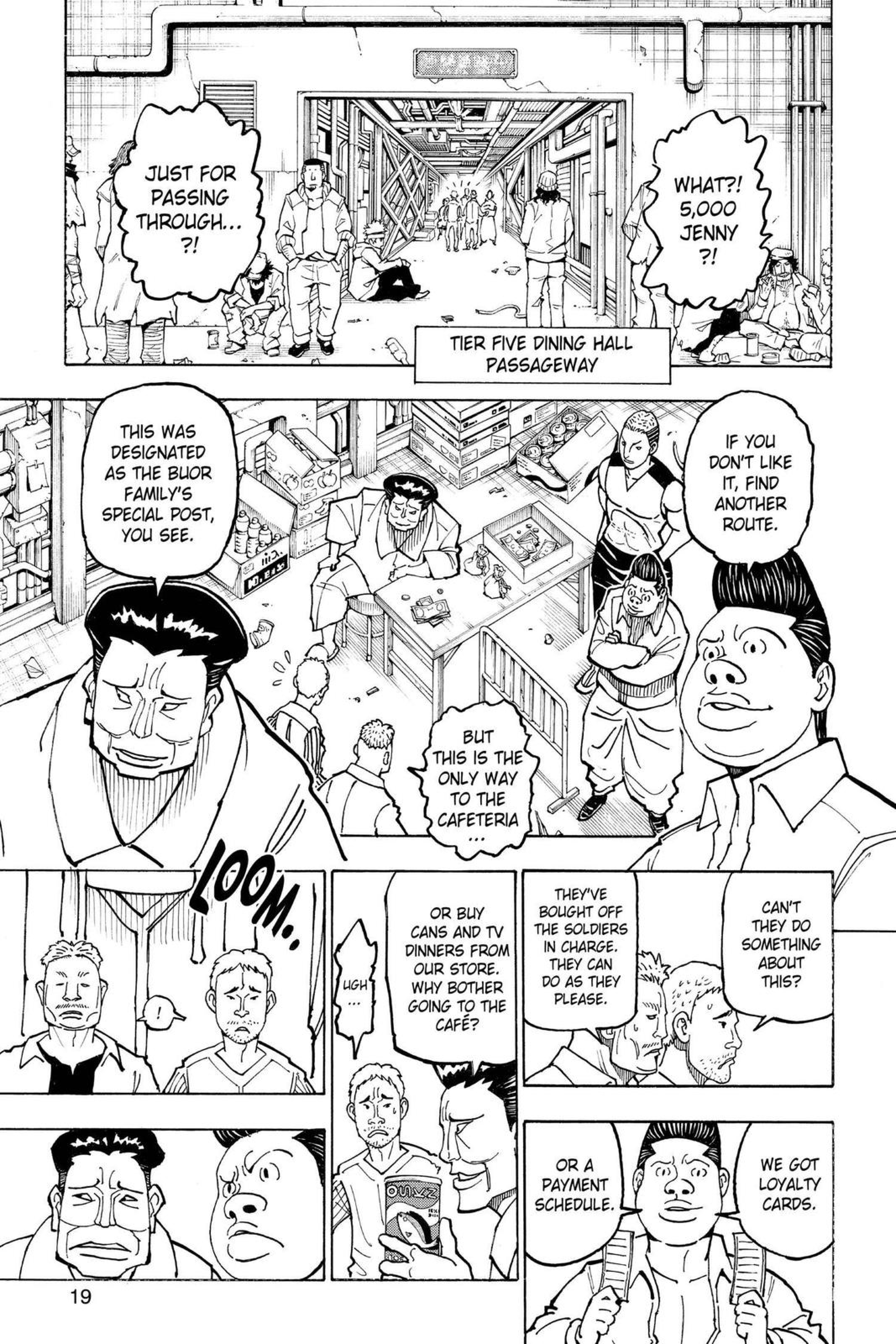

I'LL LOOK FOR AN OPPORTUNITY TO INTERROGATE THE OTHERS WITH MY CHAIN IF POSSIBLE.
TRY TO SUBTLY OBSERVE THE OTHERS AS WELL.

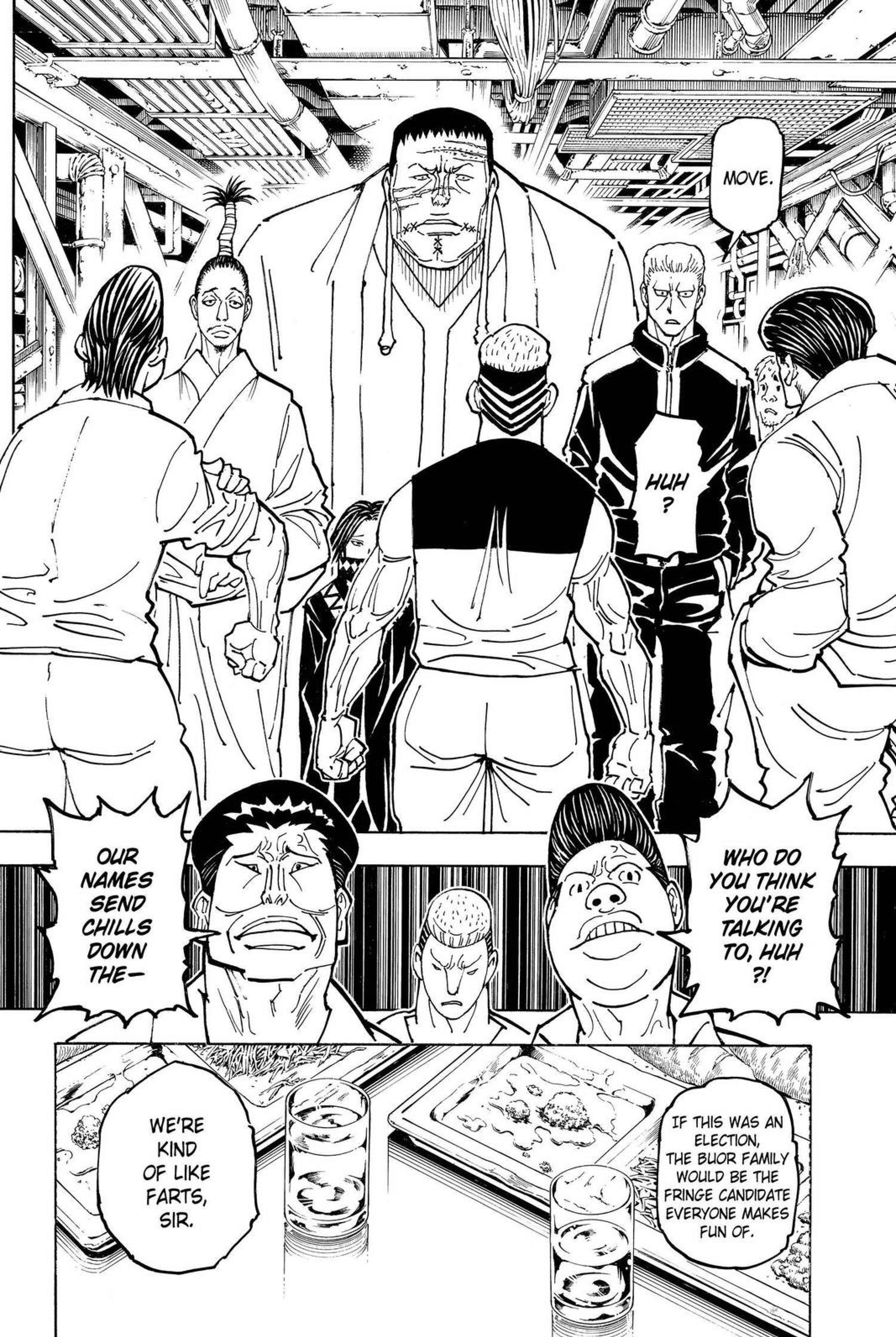


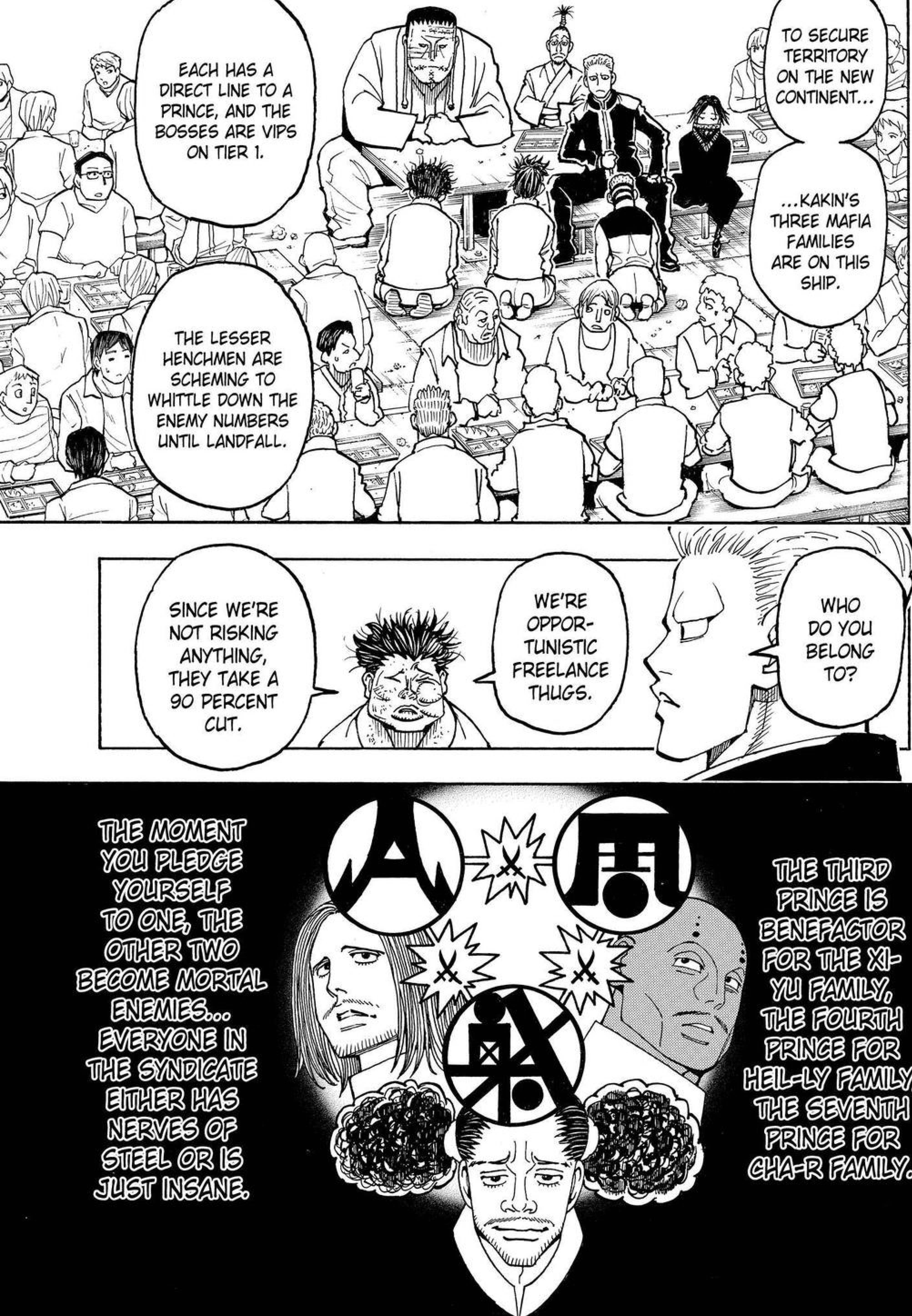

SO EVERYONE STAYED?
OF COURSE.
THESE ARE OUR PRINCES' ORDERS.
THEN LET'S BEGIN.
FIRST, CLASP YOUR RIGHT AND LEFT HANDS TOGETHER, IN WHATEVER WAY THAT'S NATURAL TO YOU.
DONE?
WE CAN ROUGHLY DIVIDE PEOPLE INTO NEN-LEARNING GROUPS OF BY THE WAY THEY CLASP THEIR HANDS.

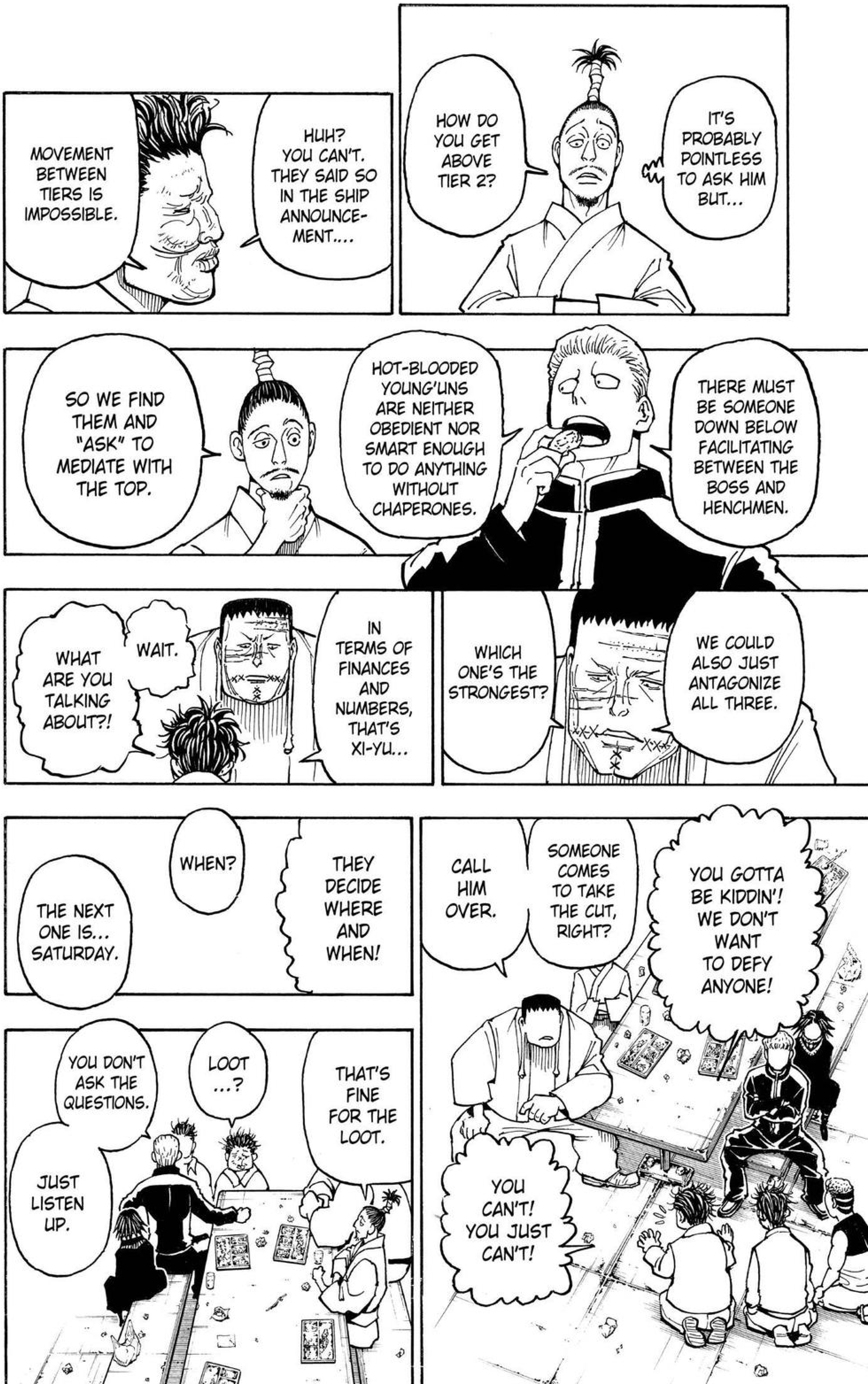

THOSE WITH PRAYING HANDS...
SHIMANU... WHY DID YOU STAY?
LIKE YOU SAID, IT MADE SENSE TO QUIT.
YOU'RE DEFINITELY NOT GETTING PAID ENOUGH IN THIS SITUATION.
I'M SO SORRY! I'M NOT DOING THIS GRUDGINGLY...
I KNOW.
I'M JUST GRATEFUL TO YOU.
THANK YOU FOR STAYING.
...
MY FAMILY HAS SERVED THE ROYAL FAMILY FOR GENERATIONS.
...
BOTH MY GRANDPARENTS FULFILLED THEIR DUTIES UNTIL THEIR DEATHS. BUT MY FATHER AND MOTHER BECAME ILL, SO IT WAS NOT POSSIBLE FOR THEM.
THAT WAS THEIR REGRET. THEY BOTH TOLD ME WHEN THEY DIED THAT I SHOULD SERVE THE ROYAL FAMILY UNTIL MY DEATH.
I SEE...
BUT...!
I THOUGHT, "THIS WASN'T THE KIND OF DEATH I IMAGINED..."
AND I PANICKED AND BLURTED OUT SOMETHING MISLEADING...

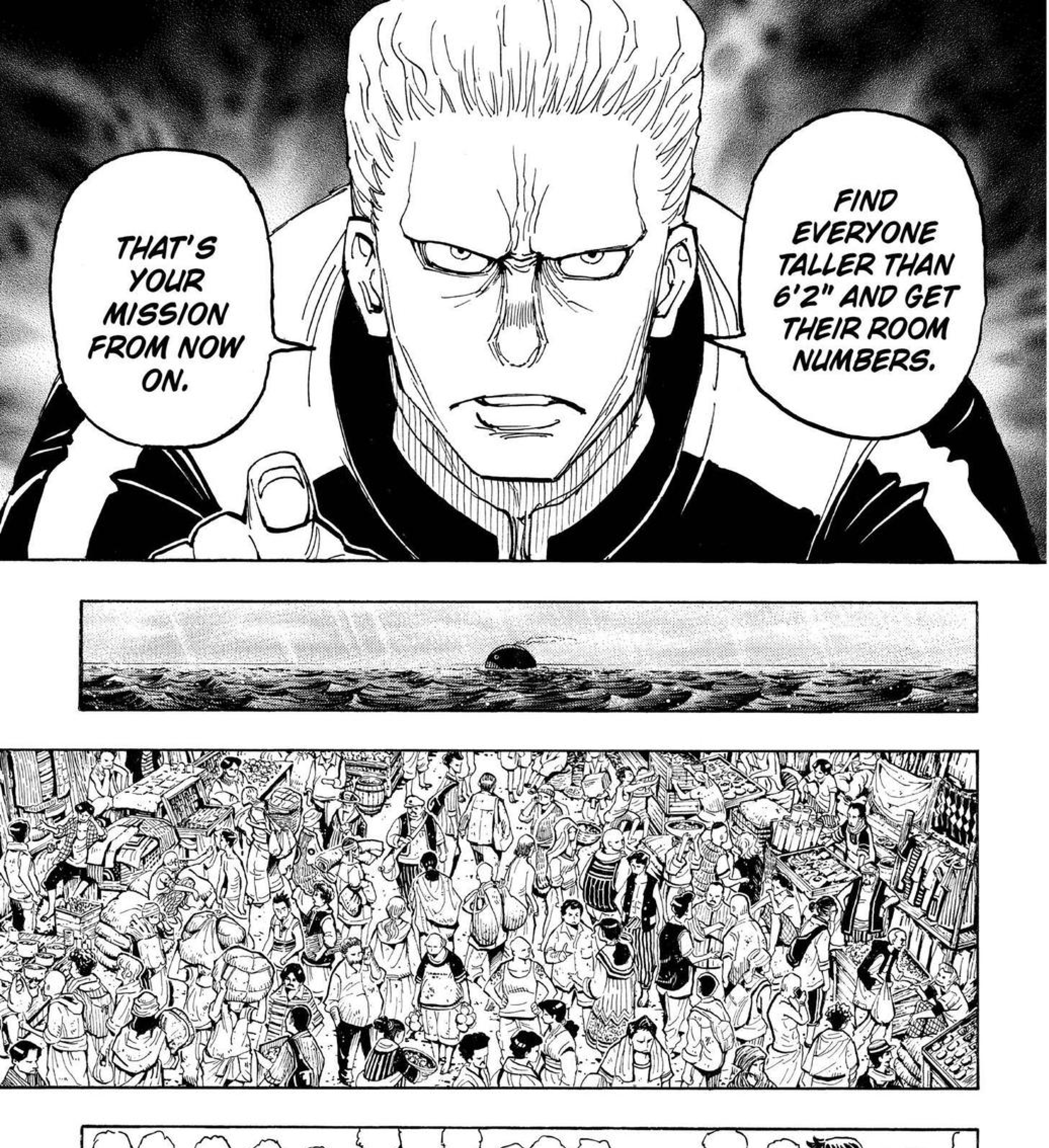

IT'S FINE.
DO YOU HAVE ANY SIBLINGS?
NO. I'M AN ONLY CHILD.
I'M THE MIDDLE OF FIVE. I HAVE BOTH OLDER AND YOUNGER BROTHERS AND SISTERS.
I ENVY YOU. I WANTED AN OLDER BROTHER.
THEY JUST BOSSED ME AROUND WHEN I WAS LITTLE.
IS THAT SO?
THE CLASS FROM THIS POINT WILL BE SPLIT INTO GROUPS.
PRAYERS, CLOSE YOUR EYES AND IMAGINE SCOOPING WATER.
SHAKERS, HOLD YOUR HANDS IN A CIRCLE, IMAGINING THE FLOW OF AURA IN A CLOCKWISE DIRECTION.
CATCHERS, IMAGINE MAKING COTTON CANDY IN THE AIR.
H
FURYKOV AND BELEREINTE WILL CHECK THE FLOW OF AURA IN THE GROUPS.
WE'RE AIDES?
YUP.
BEGIN!

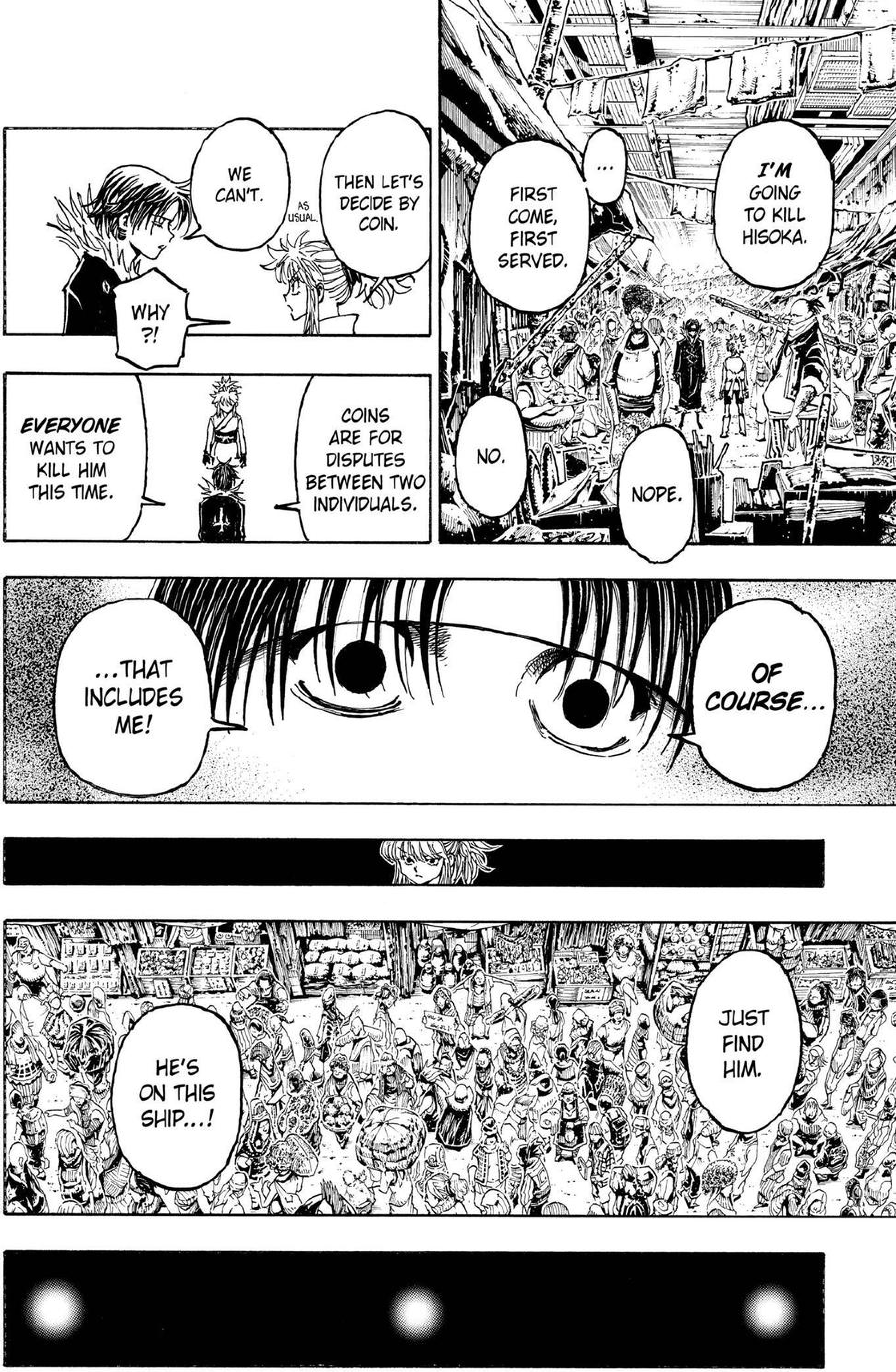

WHAT?! 5,000 JENNY ?!
JUST FOR PASSING THROUGH… ?!
TIER FIVE DINING HALL PASSAGEWAY
IF YOU DON'T LIKE IT, FIND ANOTHER ROUTE.
THIS WAS DESIGNATED AS THE BUOR FAMILY'S SPECIAL POST, YOU SEE.
BUT THIS IS THE ONLY WAY TO THE CAFETERIA …
CAN'T THEY DO SOMETHING ABOUT THIS?
THEY'VE BOUGHT OFF THE SOLDIERS IN CHARGE. THEY CAN DO AS THEY PLEASE.
OR BUY CANS AND TV DINNERS FROM OUR STORE. WHY BOTHER GOING TO THE CAFÉ?
UGH …
LOOM..
!
WE GOT LOYALTY CARDS.
OR A PAYMENT SCHEDULE.

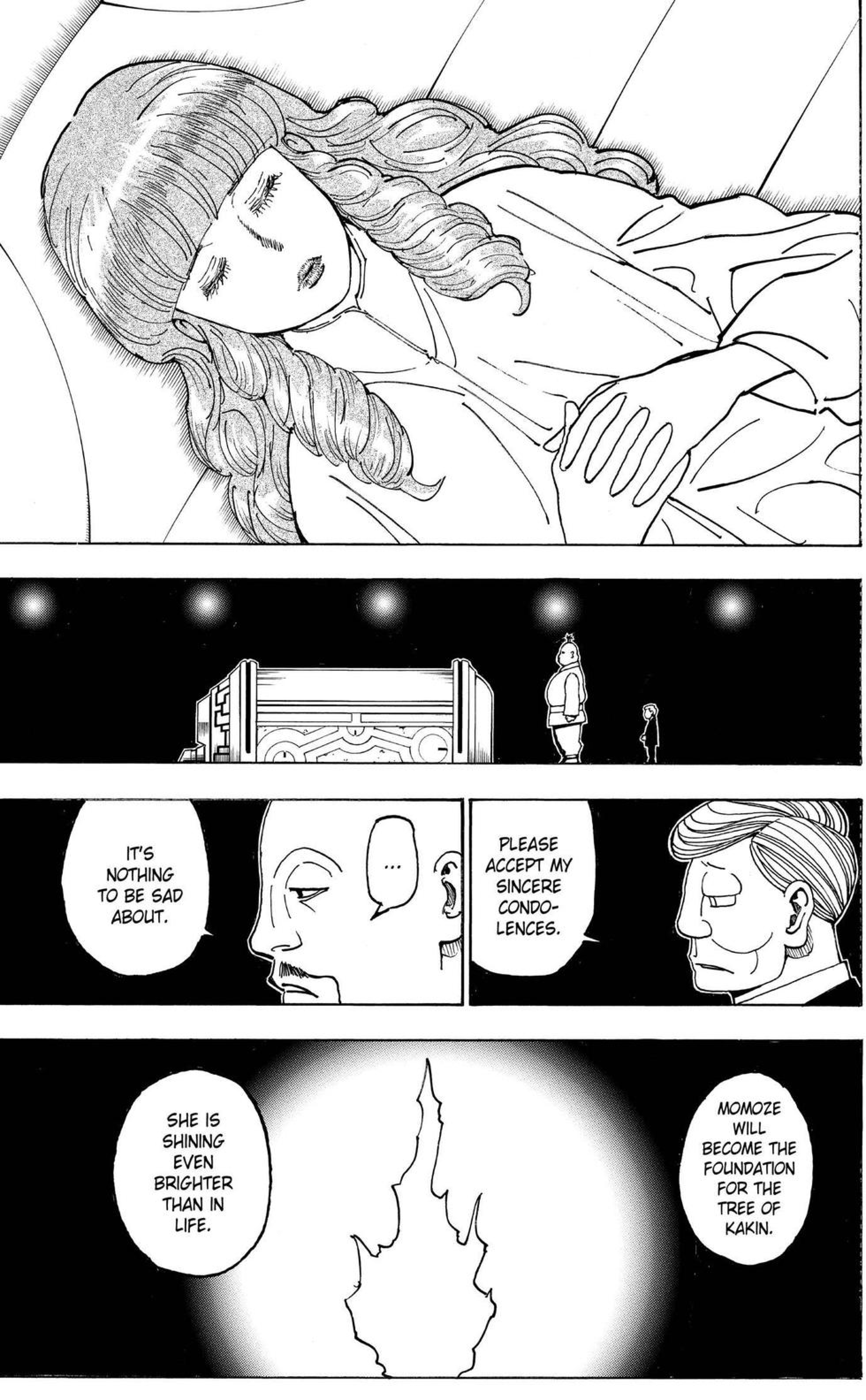

MOVE.
HUH ?
WHO DO YOU THINK YOU'RE TALKING TO, HUH ?!
OUR NAMES SEND CHILLS DOWN THE—
IF THIS WAS AN ELECTION, THE BUOR FAMILY WOULD BE THE FRINGE CANDIDATE EVERYONE MAKES FUN OF.
WE'RE KIND OF LIKE FARTS, SIR.

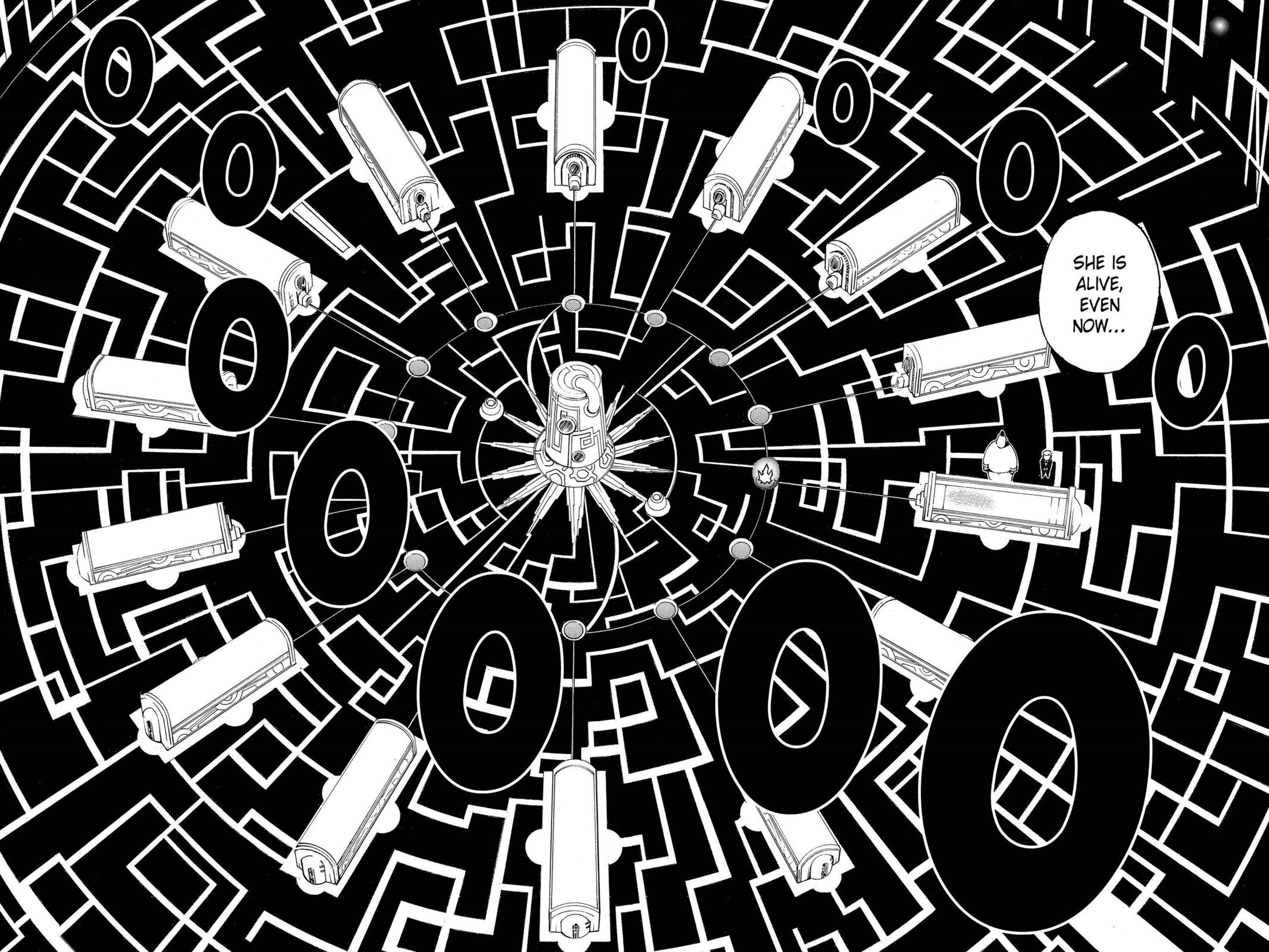

TO SECURE TERRITORY ON THE NEW CONTINENT...
...KAKIN'S THREE MAFIA FAMILIES ARE ON THIS SHIP.
EACH HAS A DIRECT LINE TO A PRINCE, AND THE BOSSES ARE VIPS ON TIER 1.
THE LESSER HENCHMEN ARE SCHEMING TO WHITTLE DOWN THE ENEMY NUMBERS UNTIL LANDFALL.
WHO DO YOU BELONG TO?
WE'RE OPPORTUNISTIC FREELANCE THUGS.
SINCE WE'RE NOT RISKING ANYTHING, THEY TAKE A 90 PERCENT CUT.
THE THIRD PRINCE IS BENEFACTOR FOR THE XI-YU FAMILY, THE FOURTH PRINCE FOR HEIL-LY FAMILY, THE SEVENTH PRINCE FOR CHA-R FAMILY.
THE MOMENT YOU PLEDGE YOURSELF TO ONE, THE OTHER TWO BECOME MORTAL ENEMIES... EVERYONE IN THE SYNDICATE EITHER HAS NERVES OF STEEL OR IS JUST INSANE.


IT'S PROBABLY POINTLESS TO ASK HIM BUT...
HOW DO YOU GET ABOVE TIER 2?
HUH? YOU CAN'T. THEY SAID SO IN THE SHIP ANNOUNCEMENT....
MOVEMENT BETWEEN TIERS IS IMPOSSIBLE.
THERE MUST BE SOMEONE DOWN BELOW FACILITATING BETWEEN THE BOSS AND HENCHMEN.
HOT-BLOODED YOUNG'UNS ARE NEITHER OBEDIENT NOR SMART ENOUGH TO DO ANYTHING WITHOUT CHAPERONES.
SO WE FIND THEM AND "ASK" TO MEDIATE WITH THE TOP.
WE COULD ALSO JUST ANTAGONIZE ALL THREE.
WHICH ONE'S THE STRONGEST?
IN TERMS OF FINANCES AND NUMBERS, THAT'S XI-YU...
WAIT.
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?!
YOU GOTTA BE KIDDIN'! WE DON'T WANT TO DEFY ANYONE!
SOMEONE COMES TO TAKE THE CUT, RIGHT?
CALL HIM OVER.
YOU CAN'T! YOU JUST CAN'T!
THEY DECIDE WHERE AND WHEN!
WHEN?
THE NEXT ONE IS... SATURDAY.
THAT'S FINE FOR THE LOOT.
LOOT ...?
YOU DON'T ASK THE QUESTIONS.
JUST LISTEN UP.

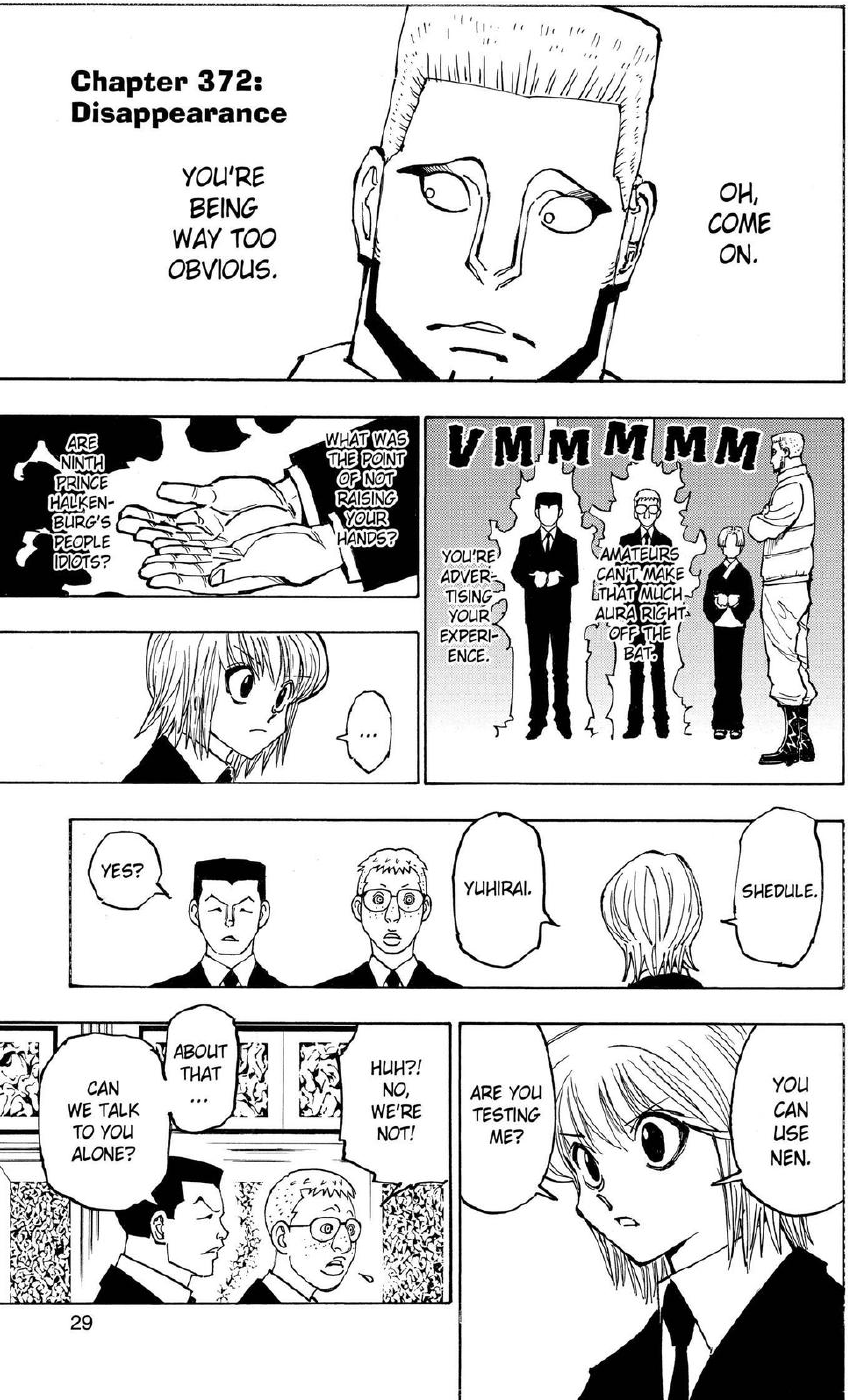

FIND EVERYONE TALLER THAN 6'2" AND GET THEIR ROOM NUMBERS.
THAT'S YOUR MISSION FROM NOW ON.

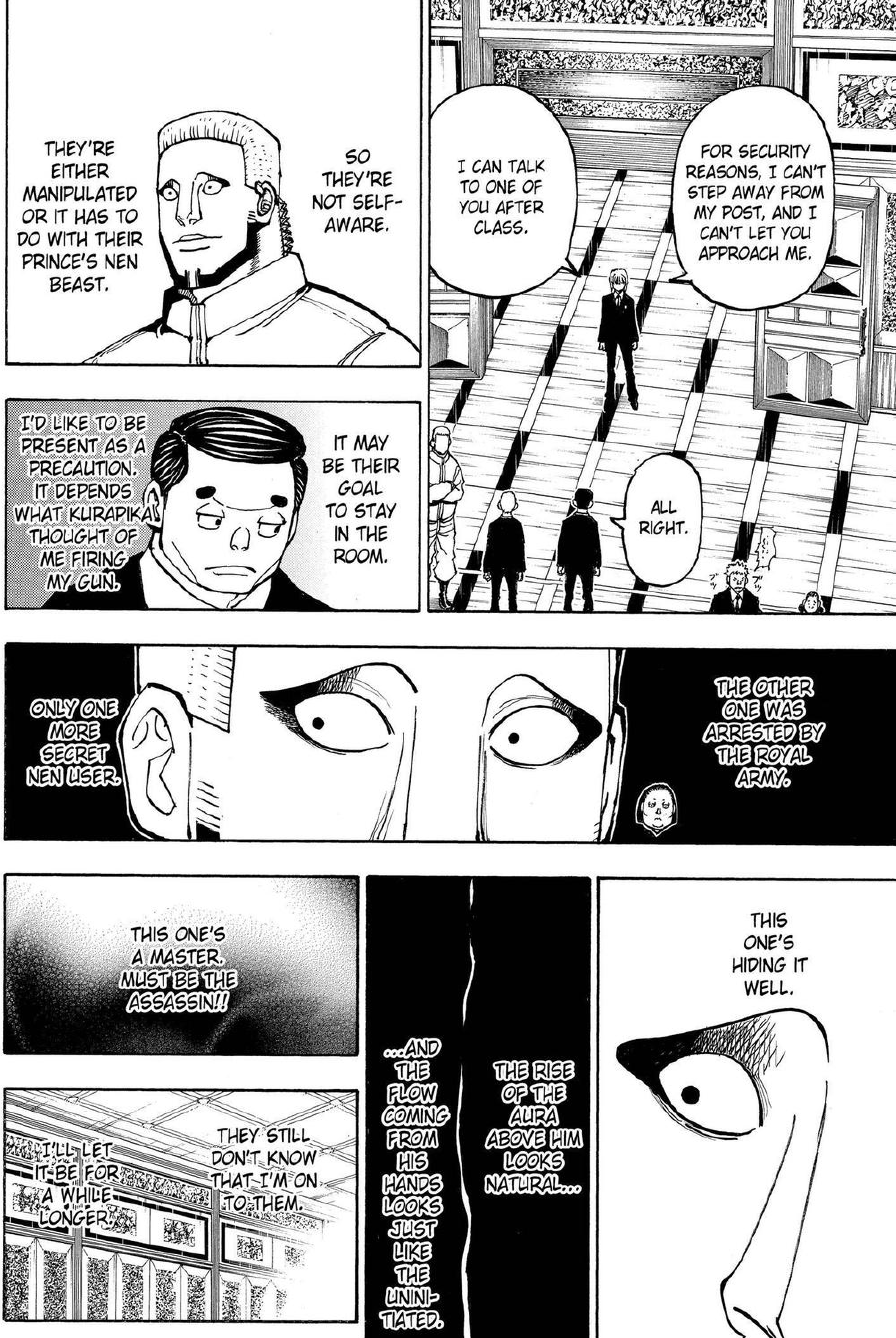

I'M GOING TO KILL HISOKA.
...
FIRST COME, FIRST SERVED.
NOPE.
NO.
THEN LET'S DECIDE BY COIN.
AS USUAL.
WE CAN'T.
WHY ?!
COINS ARE FOR DISPUTES BETWEEN TWO INDIVIDUALS.
EVERYONE WANTS TO KILL HIM THIS TIME.
OF COURSE...
...THAT INCLUDES ME!
JUST FIND HIM.
HE'S ON THIS SHIP...!

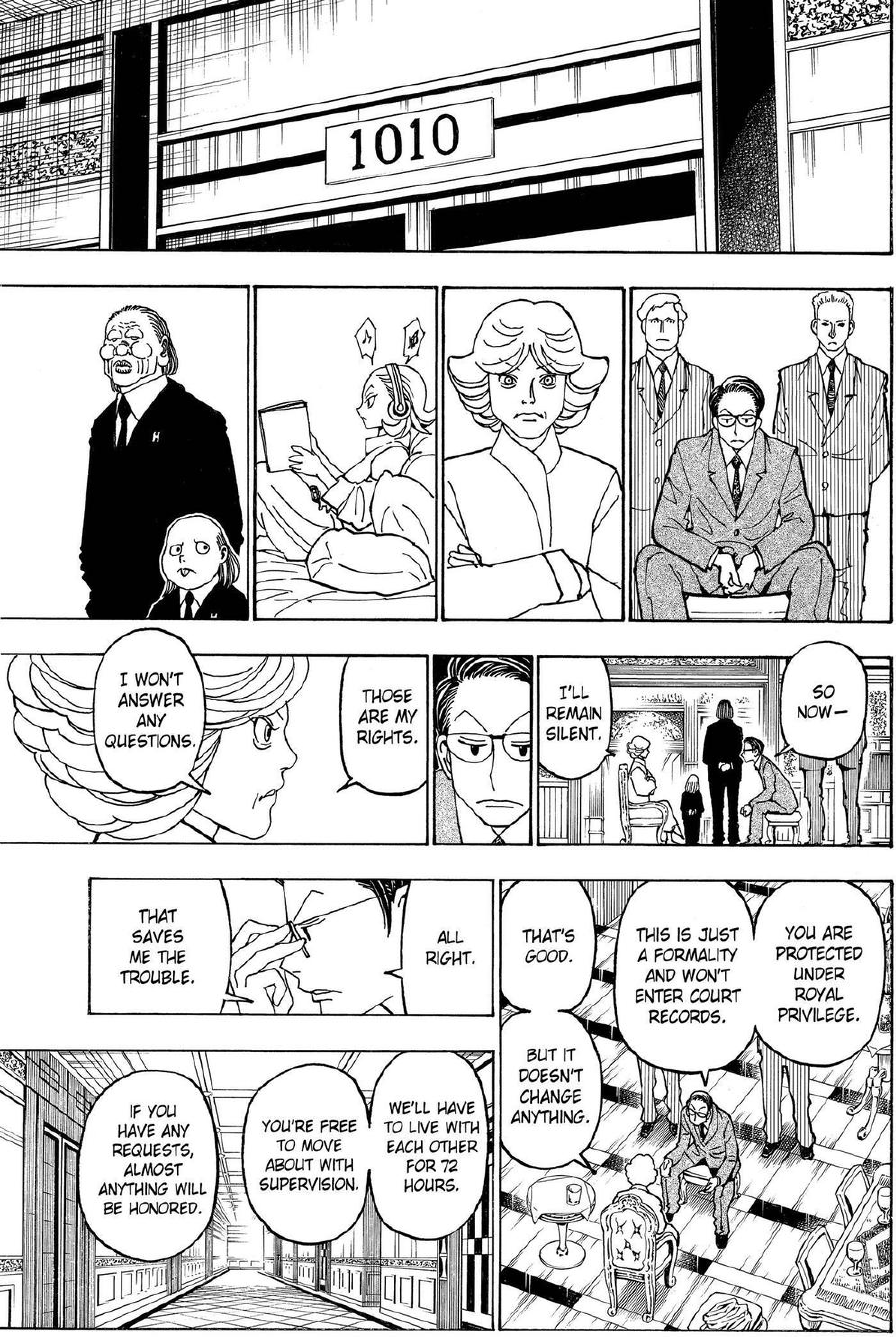

PLEASE ACCEPT MY SINCERE CONDOLENCES.
...
IT'S NOTHING TO BE SAD ABOUT.
MOMOZE WILL BECOME THE FOUNDATION FOR THE TREE OF KAKIN.
SHE IS SHINING EVEN BRIGHTER THAN IN LIFE.

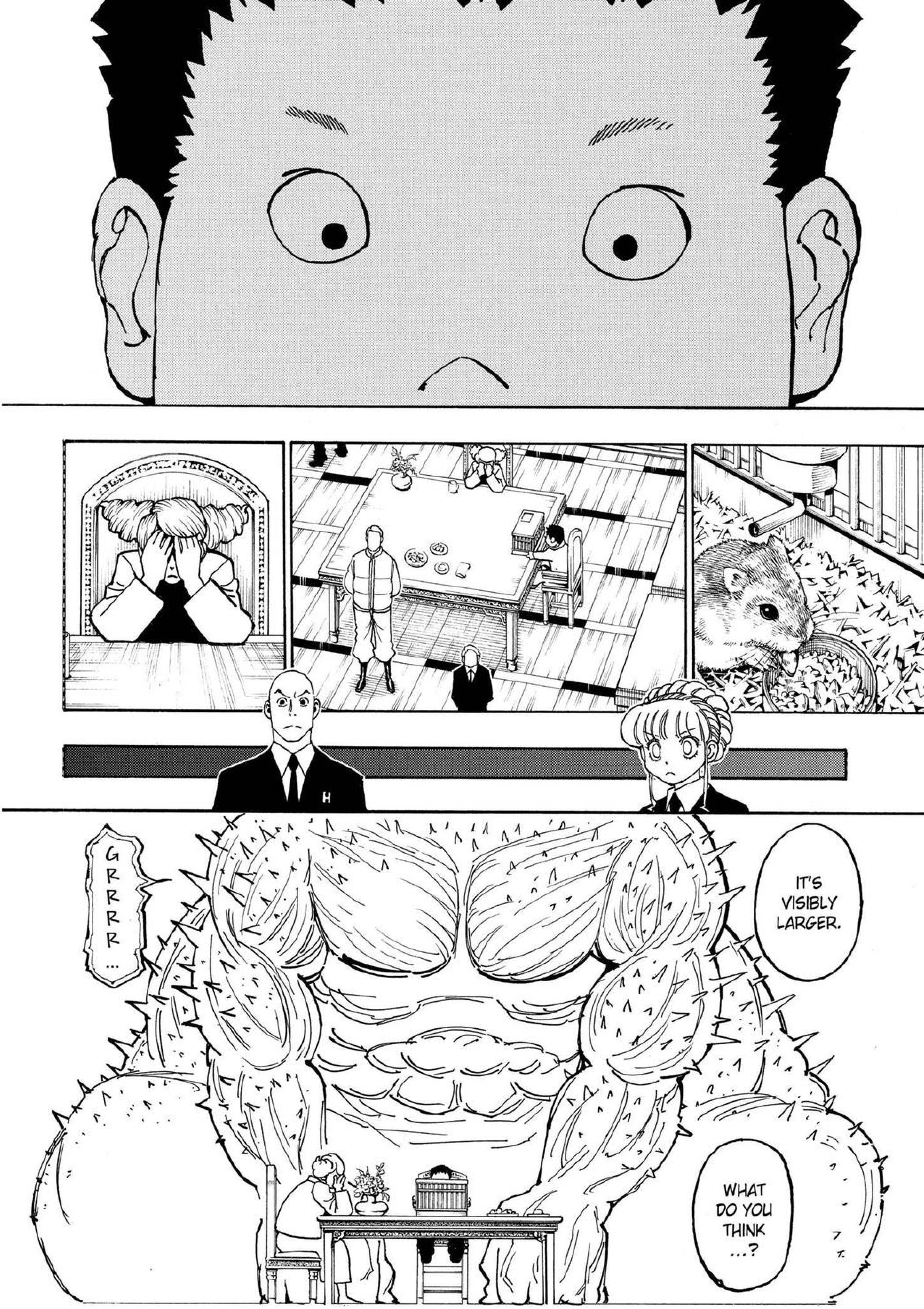

SHE IS ALIVE, EVEN NOW...

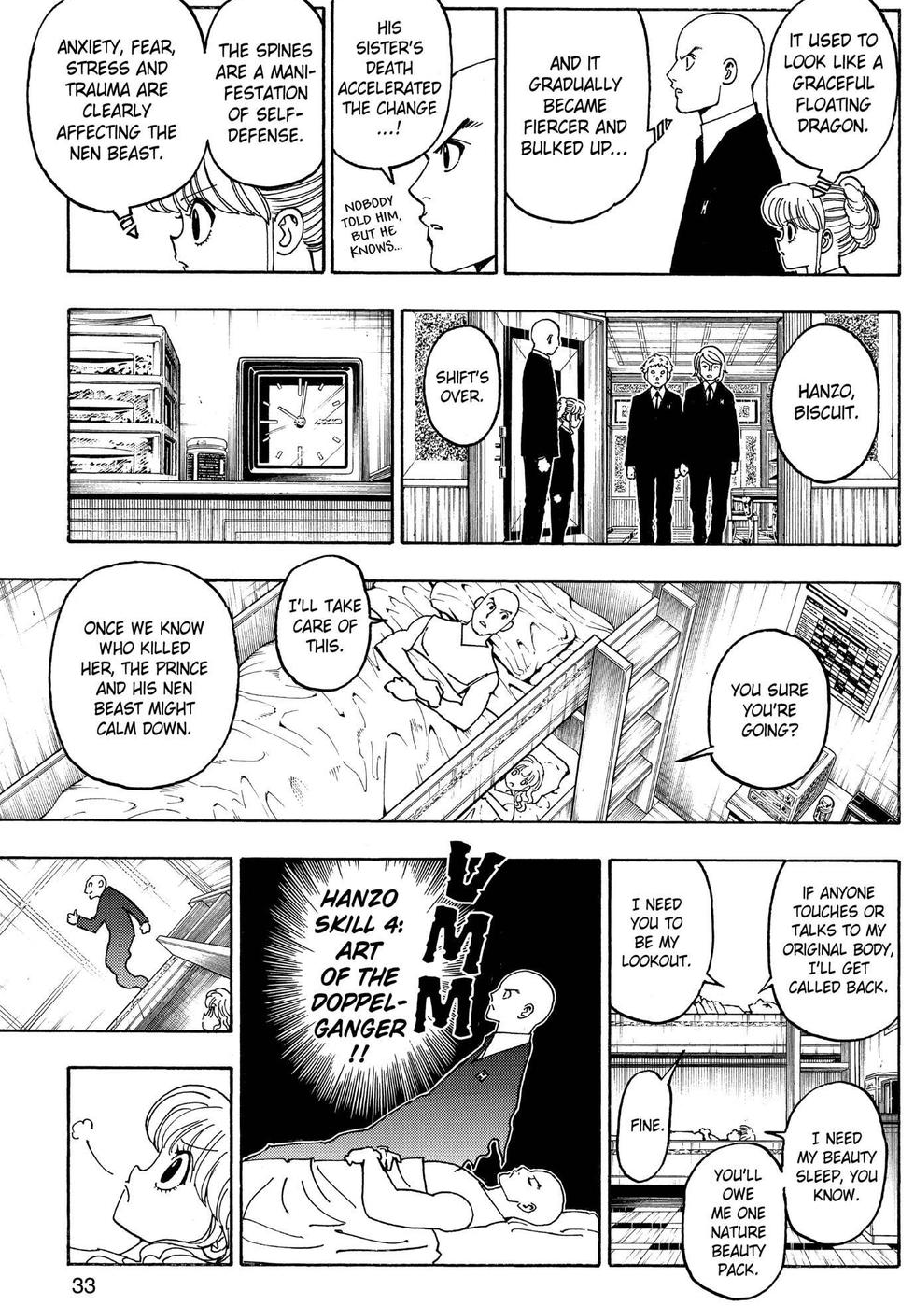
Chapter 372: Disappearance

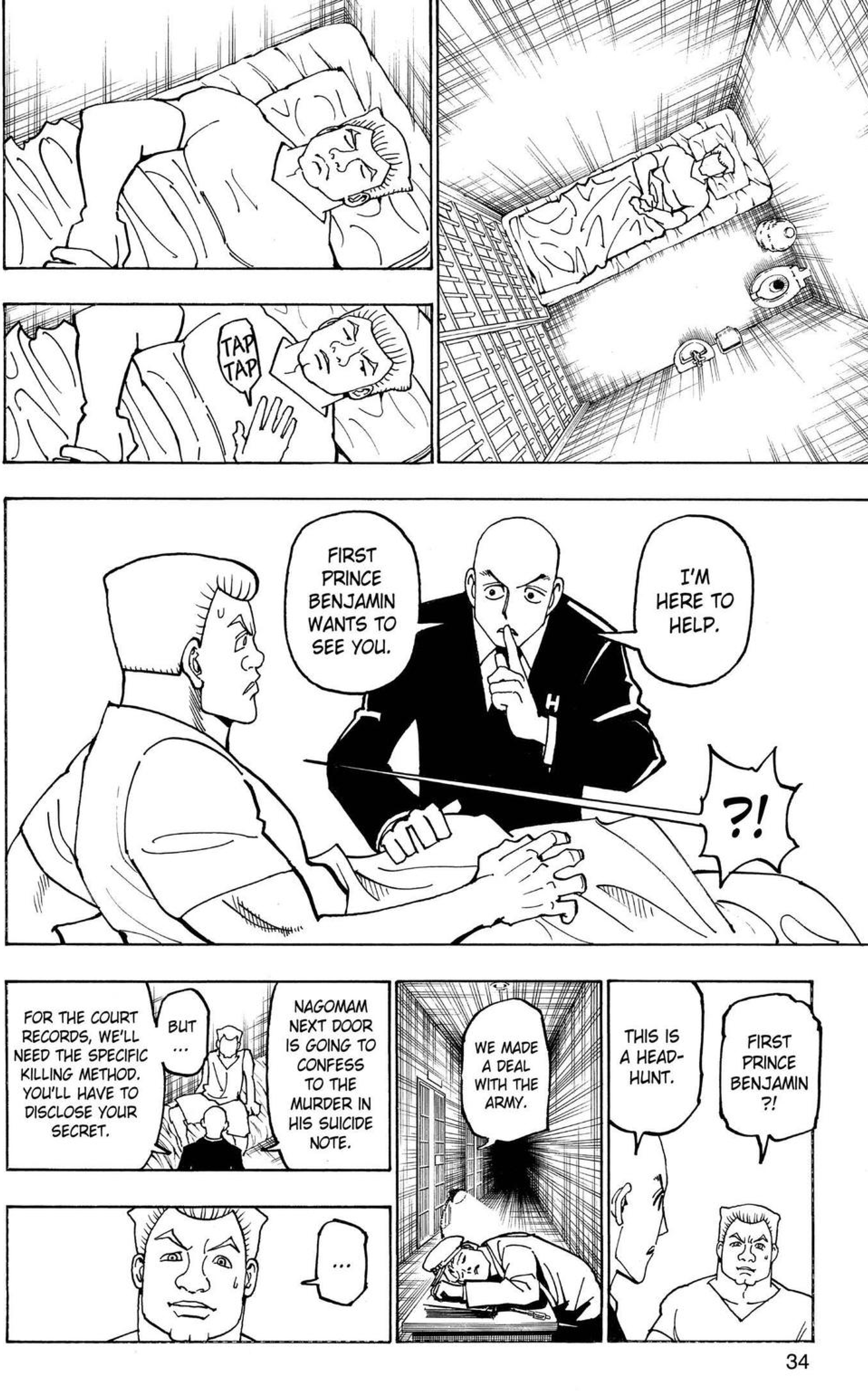

OH, COME ON.
YOU'RE BEING WAY TOO OBVIOUS.
VMMMMMM
AMATEURS CAN'T MAKE THAT MUCH AURA RIGHT OFF THE BAT.
YOU'RE ADVERTISING YOUR EXPERIENCE.
WHAT WAS THE POINT OF NOT RAISING YOUR HANDS?
ARE NINTH PRINCE HALKENBURG'S PEOPLE IDIOTS?
…
SHEDULE.
YUHIRAI.
YES?
YOU CAN USE NEN.
ARE YOU TESTING ME?
HUH?! NO, WE'RE NOT!
ABOUT THAT …
CAN WE TALK TO YOU ALONE?

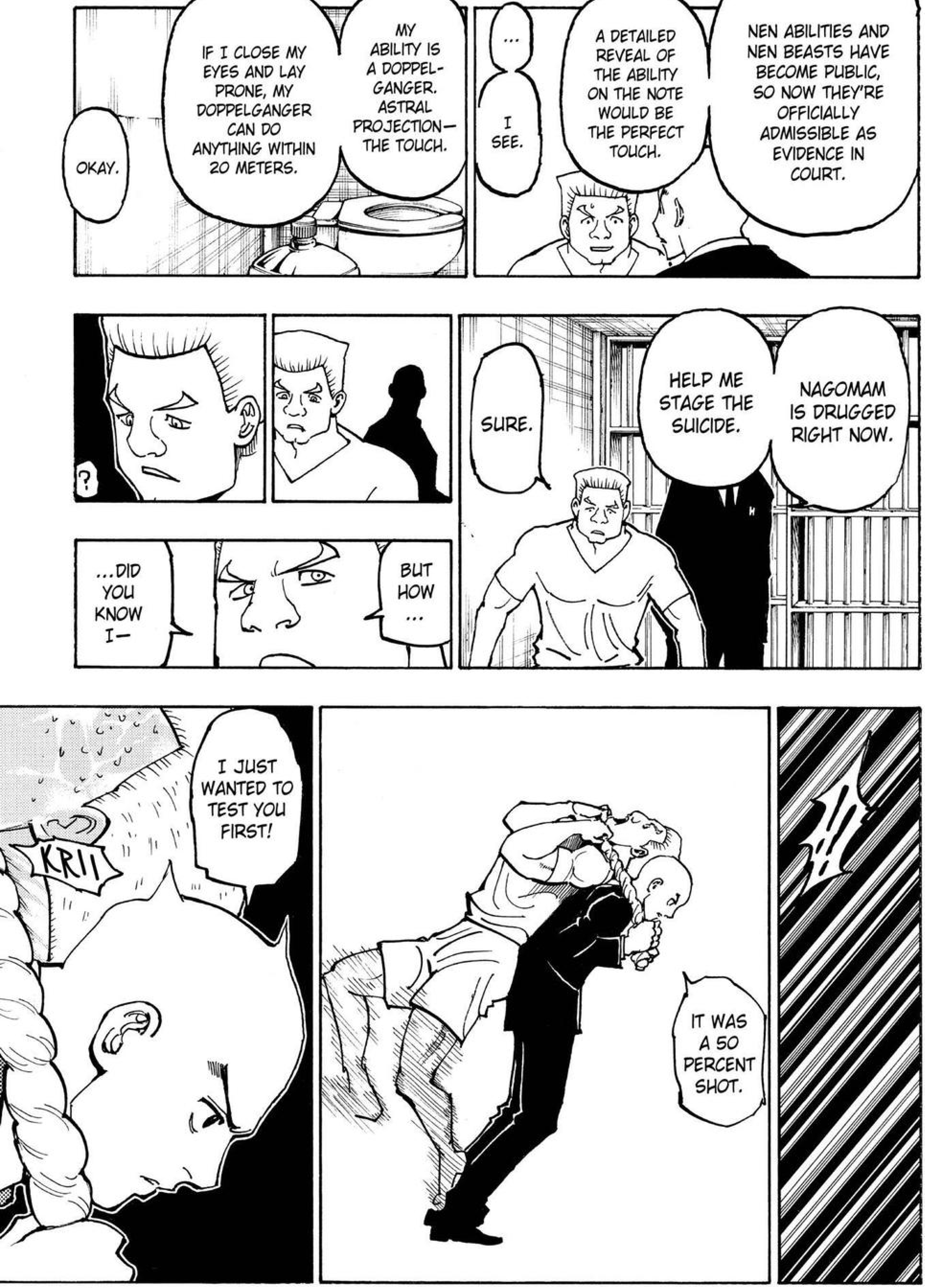

FOR SECURITY REASONS, I CAN'T STEP AWAY FROM MY POST, AND I CAN'T LET YOU APPROACH ME.
I CAN TALK TO ONE OF YOU AFTER CLASS.
ALL RIGHT.
SO THEY'RE NOT SELF-AWARE.
THEY'RE EITHER MANIPULATED OR IT HAS TO DO WITH THEIR PRINCE'S NEN BEAST.
IT MAY BE THEIR GOAL TO STAY IN THE ROOM.
I'D LIKE TO BE PRESENT AS A PRECAUTION. IT DEPENDS WHAT KURAPIKA THOUGHT OF ME FIRING MY GUN.
THE OTHER ONE WAS ARRESTED BY THE ROYAL ARMY.
ONLY ONE MORE SECRET NEN USER.
THIS ONE'S HIDING IT WELL.
THE RISE OF THE AURA ABOVE HIM LOOKS NATURAL...
...AND THE FLOW COMING FROM HIS HANDS LOOKS JUST LIKE THE UNINITIATED.
THIS ONE'S A MASTER. MUST BE THE ASSASSIN!!
THEY STILL DON'T KNOW THAT I'M ON TO THEM.
I'LL LET IT BE FOR A WHILE LONGER.

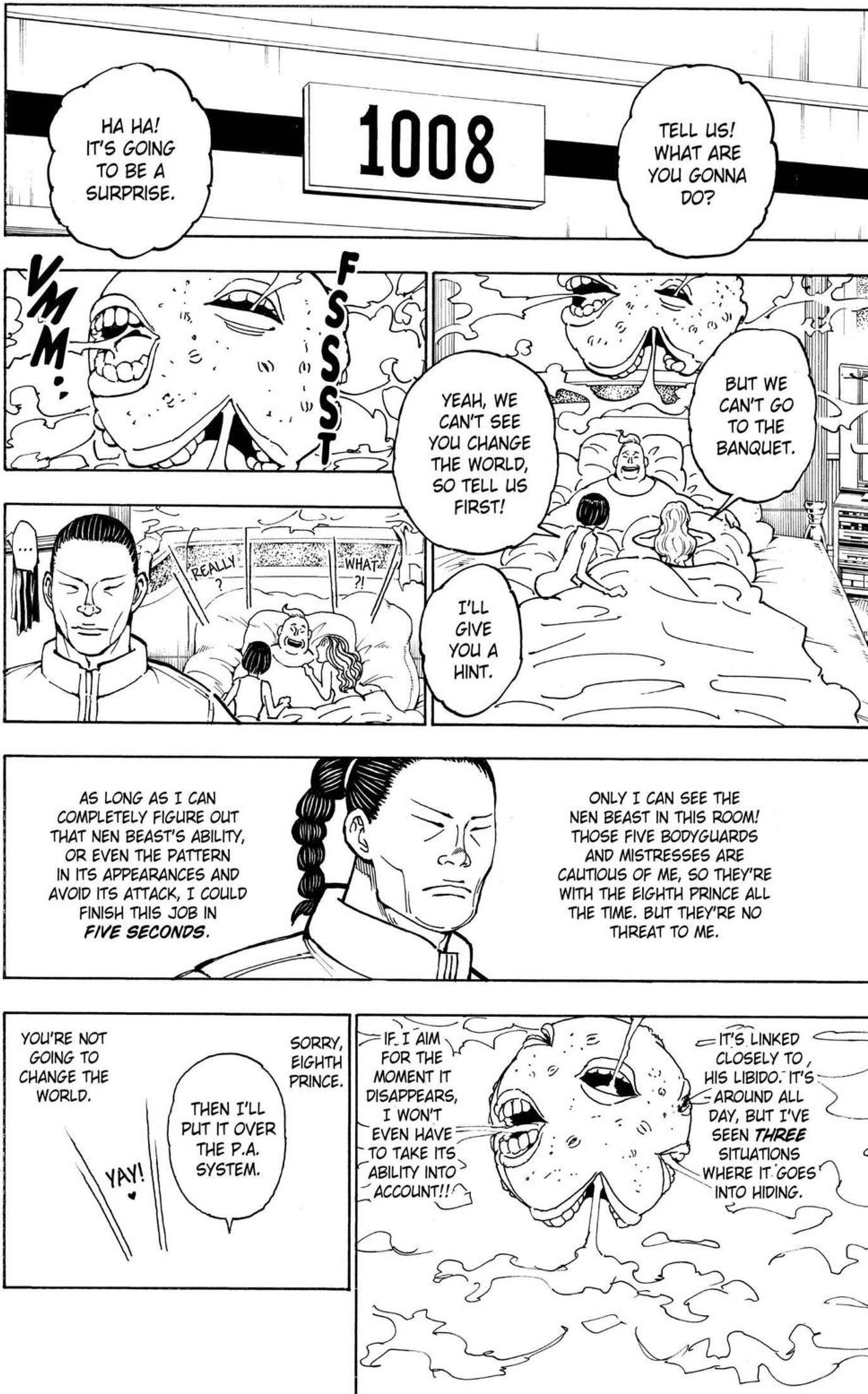

1010
SO NOW—
I'LL REMAIN SILENT.
THOSE ARE MY RIGHTS.
I WON'T ANSWER ANY QUESTIONS.
YOU ARE PROTECTED UNDER ROYAL PRIVILEGE.
THIS IS JUST A FORMALITY AND WON'T ENTER COURT RECORDS.
THAT'S GOOD.
BUT IT DOESN'T CHANGE ANYTHING.
ALL RIGHT.
THAT SAVES ME THE TROUBLE.
WE'LL HAVE TO LIVE WITH EACH OTHER FOR 72 HOURS.
YOU'RE FREE TO MOVE ABOUT WITH SUPERVISION.
IF YOU HAVE ANY REQUESTS, ALMOST ANYTHING WILL BE HONORED.

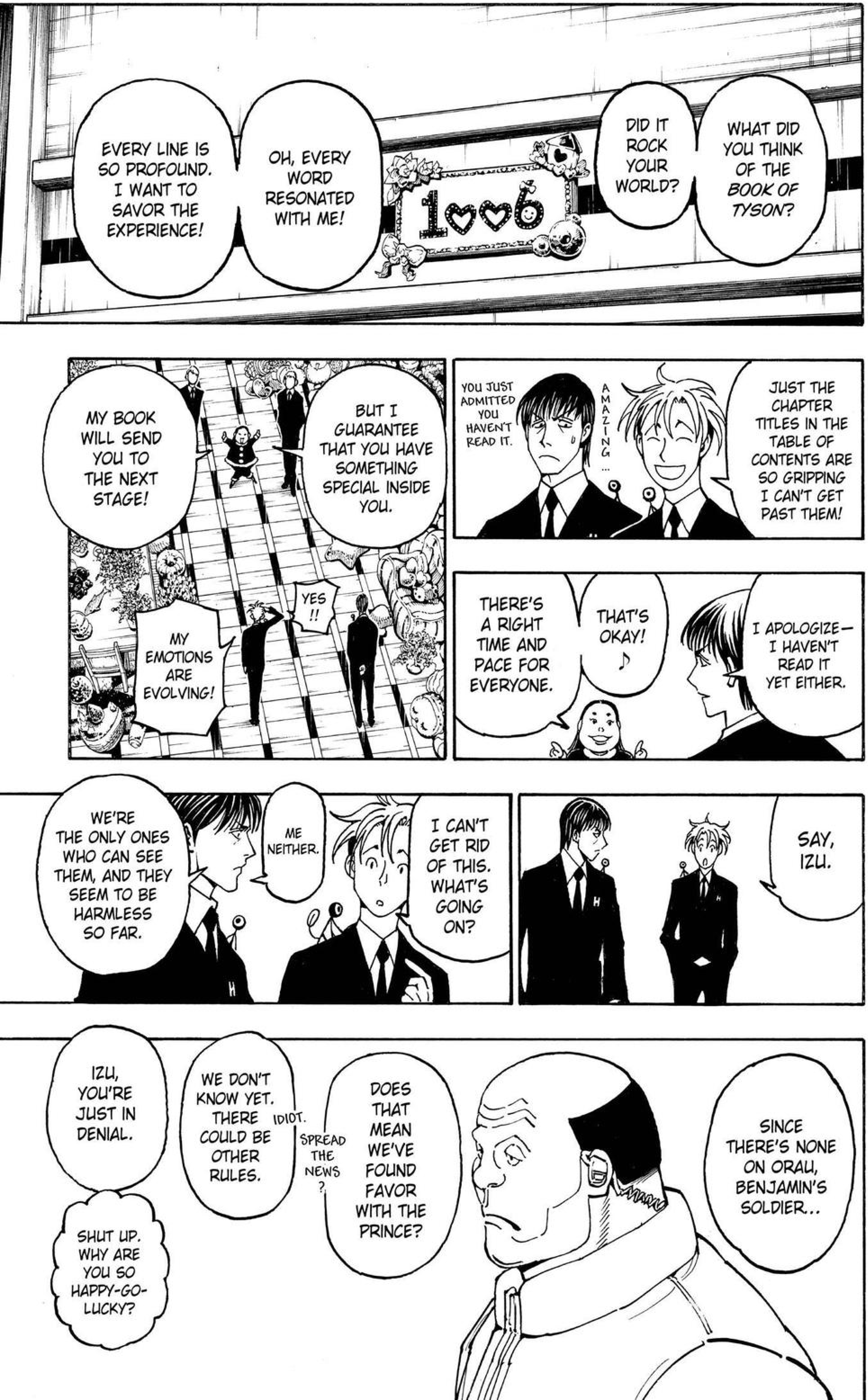

H
IT'S VISIBLY LARGER.
WHAT DO YOU THINK ...?
GRRRR ...

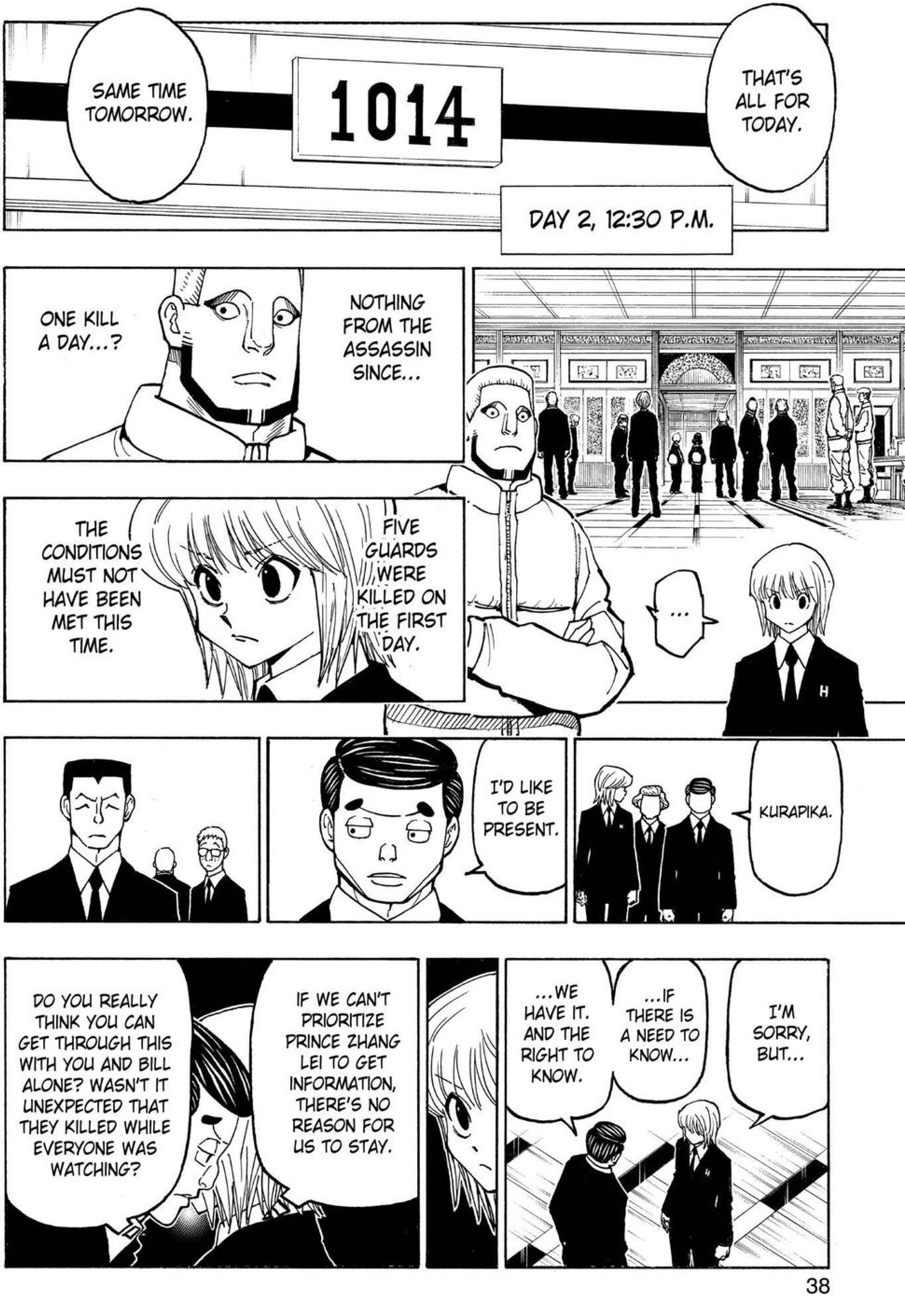

IT USED TO LOOK LIKE A GRACEFUL FLOATING DRAGON.
AND IT GRADUALLY BECAME FIERCER AND BULKED UP…
HIS SISTER'S DEATH ACCELERATED THE CHANGE …!
NOBODY TOLD HIM, BUT HE KNOWS…
THE SPINES ARE A MANIFESTATION OF SELF-DEFENSE.
ANXIETY, FEAR, STRESS AND TRAUMA ARE CLEARLY AFFECTING THE NEN BEAST.
HANZO, BISCUIT.
SHIFT'S OVER.
YOU SURE YOU'RE GOING?
I'LL TAKE CARE OF THIS.
ONCE WE KNOW WHO KILLED HER, THE PRINCE AND HIS NEN BEAST MIGHT CALM DOWN.
IF ANYONE TOUCHES OR TALKS TO MY ORIGINAL BODY, I'LL GET CALLED BACK.
I NEED YOU TO BE MY LOOKOUT.
FINE.
I NEED MY BEAUTY SLEEP, YOU KNOW.
YOU'LL OWE ME ONE NATURE BEAUTY PACK.
VMM
HANZO SKILL 4: ART OF THE DOPPELGANGER!!

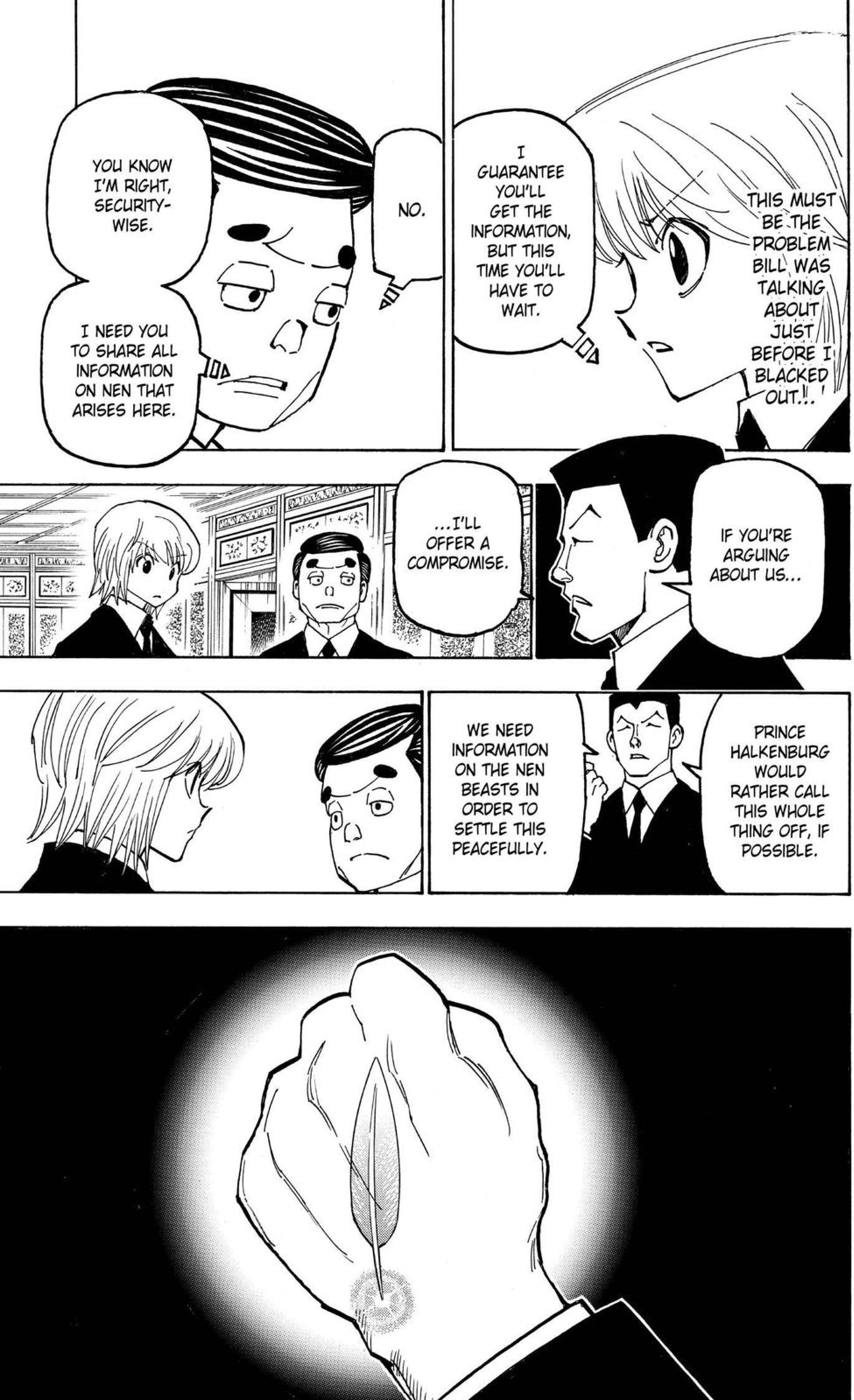

TAP TAP
I'M HERE TO HELP.
FIRST PRINCE BENJAMIN WANTS TO SEE YOU.
?!
FIRST PRINCE BENJAMIN ?!
THIS IS A HEAD-HUNT.
WE MADE A DEAL WITH THE ARMY.
NAGOMAM NEXT DOOR IS GOING TO CONFESS TO THE MURDER IN HIS SUICIDE NOTE.
BUT ...
FOR THE COURT RECORDS, WE'LL NEED THE SPECIFIC KILLING METHOD. YOU'LL HAVE TO DISCLOSE YOUR SECRET.
...

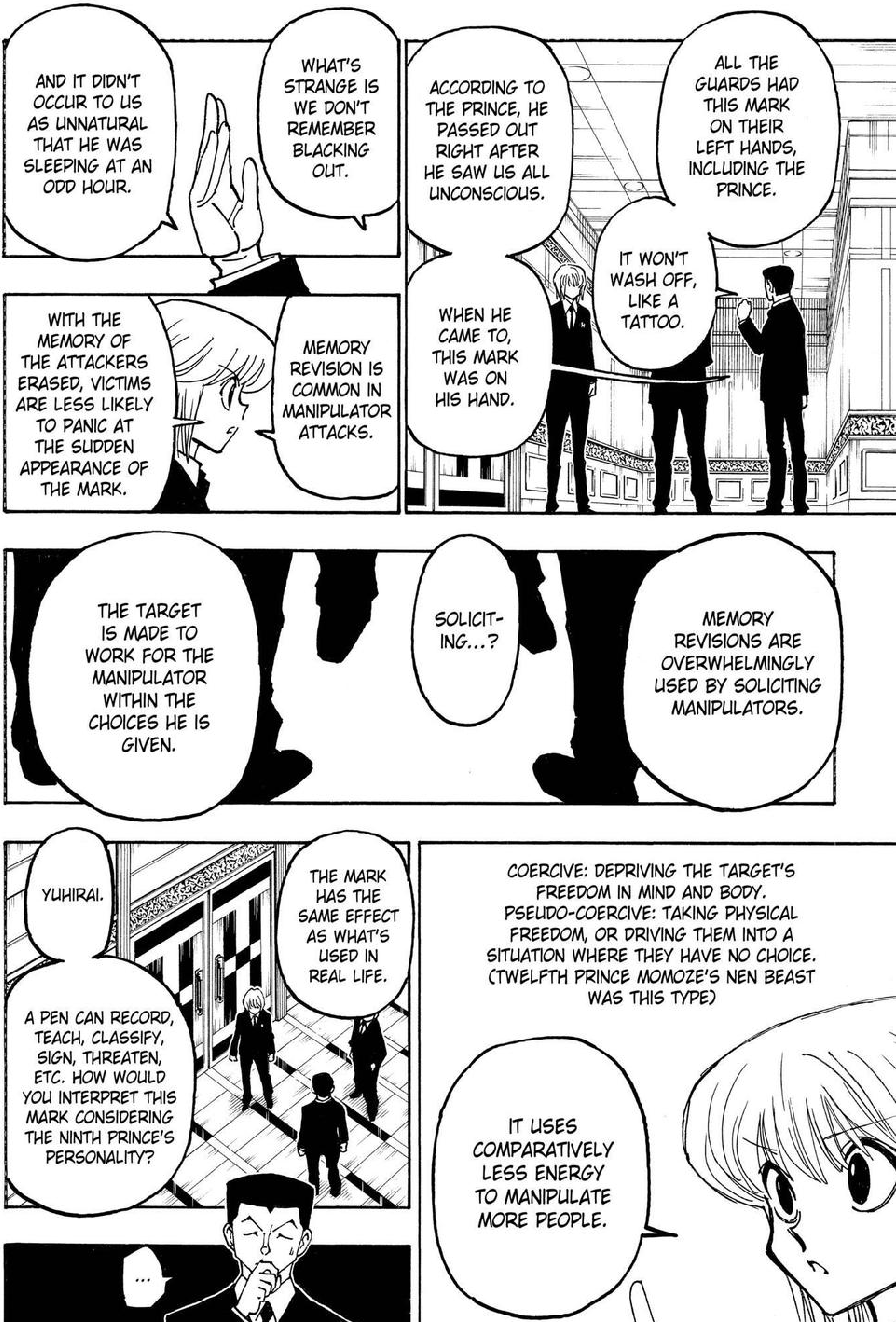

NEN ABILITIES AND NEN BEASTS HAVE BECOME PUBLIC, SO NOW THEY'RE OFFICIALLY ADMISSIBLE AS EVIDENCE IN COURT.
A DETAILED REVEAL OF THE ABILITY ON THE NOTE WOULD BE THE PERFECT TOUCH.
...
I SEE.
MY ABILITY IS A DOPPELGANGER. ASTRAL PROJECTION—THE TOUCH.
IF I CLOSE MY EYES AND LAY PRONE, MY DOPPELGANGER CAN DO ANYTHING WITHIN 20 METERS.
OKAY.
NAGOMAM IS DRUGGED RIGHT NOW.
HELP ME STAGE THE SUICIDE.
SURE.
?
BUT HOW ...
...DID YOU KNOW I—
!!
IT WAS A 50 PERCENT SHOT.
I JUST WANTED TO TEST YOU FIRST!
KRII

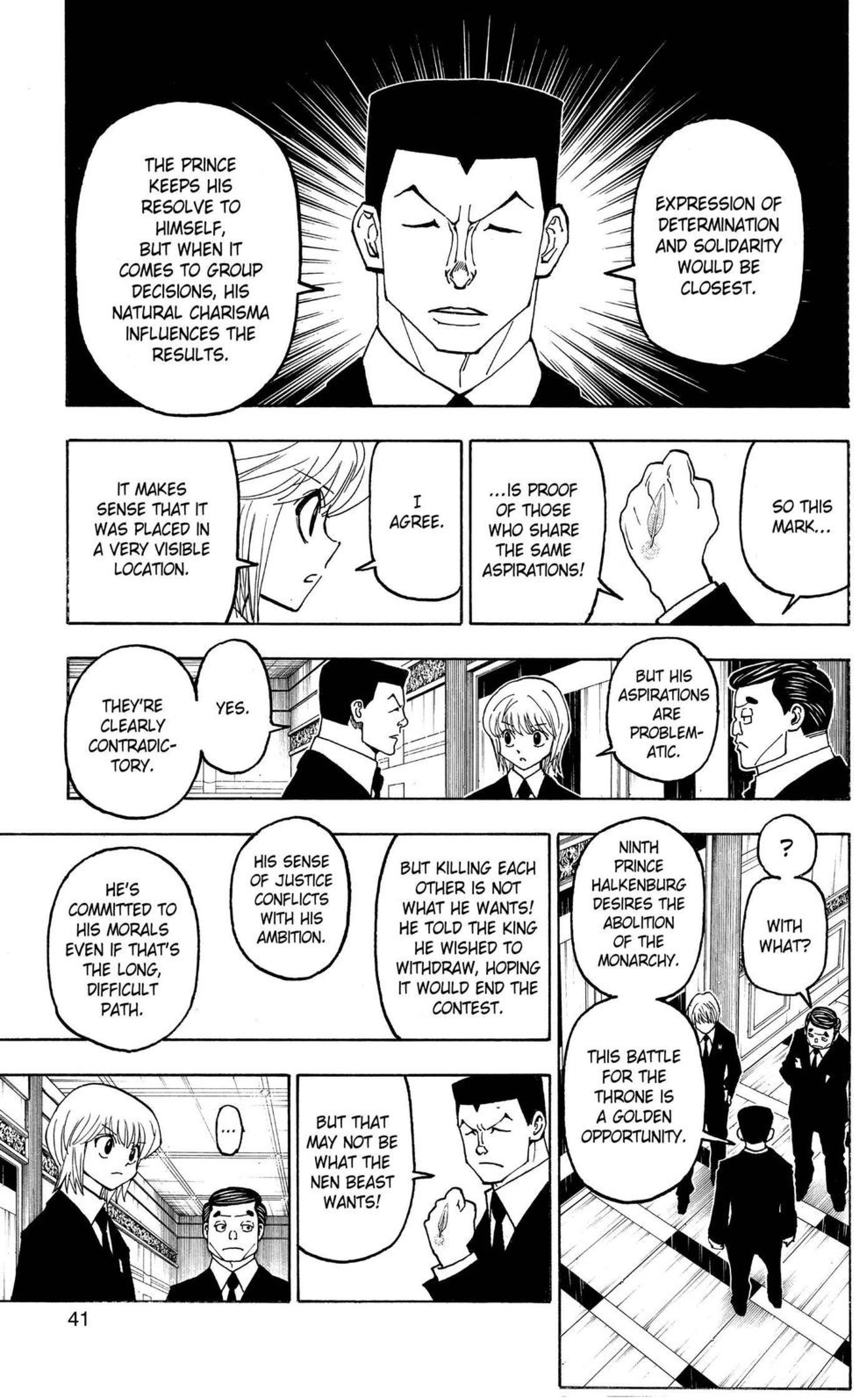

1008
TELL US! WHAT ARE YOU GONNA DO?
HA HA! IT'S GOING TO BE A SURPRISE.
BUT WE CAN'T GO TO THE BANQUET.
YEAH, WE CAN'T SEE YOU CHANGE THE WORLD, SO TELL US FIRST!
I'LL GIVE YOU A HINT.
FSSST
VMM
WHAT?!
REALLY?
...
ONLY I CAN SEE THE NEN BEAST IN THIS ROOM! THOSE FIVE BODYGUARDS AND MISTRESSES ARE CAUTIOUS OF ME, SO THEY'RE WITH THE EIGHTH PRINCE ALL THE TIME. BUT THEY'RE NO THREAT TO ME.
AS LONG AS I CAN COMPLETELY FIGURE OUT THAT NEN BEAST'S ABILITY, OR EVEN THE PATTERN IN ITS APPEARANCES AND AVOID ITS ATTACK, I COULD FINISH THIS JOB IN ***FIVE SECONDS.***
IT'S LINKED CLOSELY TO HIS LIBIDO. IT'S AROUND ALL DAY, BUT I'VE SEEN ***THREE*** SITUATIONS WHERE IT GOES INTO HIDING.
IF I AIM FOR THE MOMENT IT DISAPPEARS, I WON'T EVEN HAVE TO TAKE ITS ABILITY INTO ACCOUNT!!
SORRY, EIGHTH PRINCE.
THEN I'LL PUT IT OVER THE P.A. SYSTEM.
YAY! ♥
YOU'RE NOT GOING TO CHANGE THE WORLD.

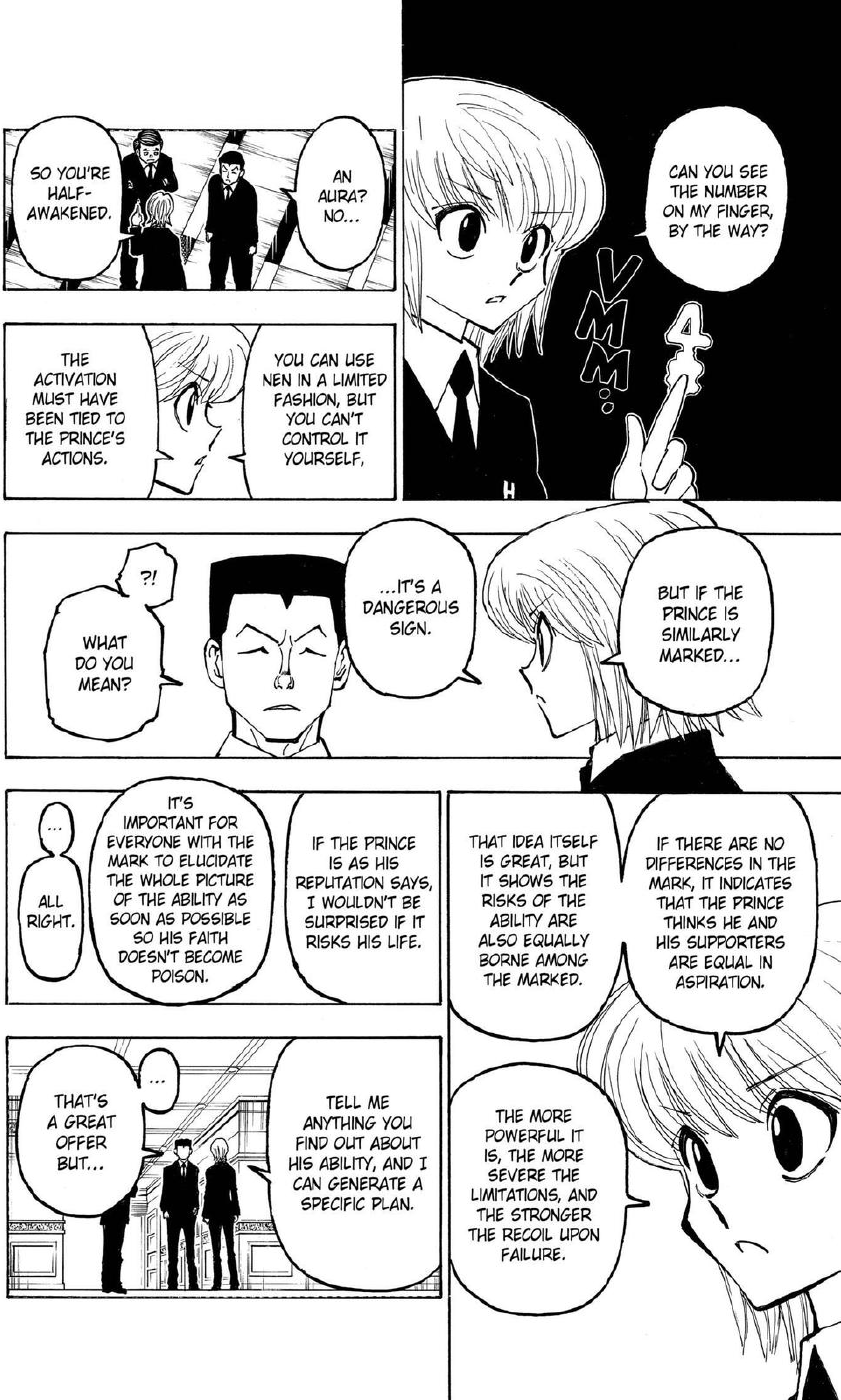

WHAT DID YOU THINK OF THE *BOOK OF TYSON*?
DID IT ROCK YOUR WORLD?
1♡♡6
OH, EVERY WORD RESONATED WITH ME!
EVERY LINE IS SO PROFOUND. I WANT TO SAVOR THE EXPERIENCE!
JUST THE CHAPTER TITLES IN THE TABLE OF CONTENTS ARE SO GRIPPING I CAN'T GET PAST THEM!
AMAZING...
YOU JUST ADMITTED YOU HAVEN'T READ IT.
I APOLOGIZE— I HAVEN'T READ IT YET EITHER.
THAT'S OKAY! ♪
THERE'S A RIGHT TIME AND PACE FOR EVERYONE.
BUT I GUARANTEE THAT YOU HAVE SOMETHING SPECIAL INSIDE YOU.
MY BOOK WILL SEND YOU TO THE NEXT STAGE!
YES!!
MY EMOTIONS ARE EVOLVING!
SAY, IZU.
I CAN'T GET RID OF THIS. WHAT'S GOING ON?
ME NEITHER.
WE'RE THE ONLY ONES WHO CAN SEE THEM, AND THEY SEEM TO BE HARMLESS SO FAR.
SINCE THERE'S NONE ON ORAU, BENJAMIN'S SOLDIER...
DOES THAT MEAN WE'VE FOUND FAVOR WITH THE PRINCE?
SPREAD THE NEWS?
IDIOT.
WE DON'T KNOW YET. THERE COULD BE OTHER RULES.
IZU, YOU'RE JUST IN DENIAL.
SHUT UP. WHY ARE YOU SO HAPPY-GO-LUCKY?

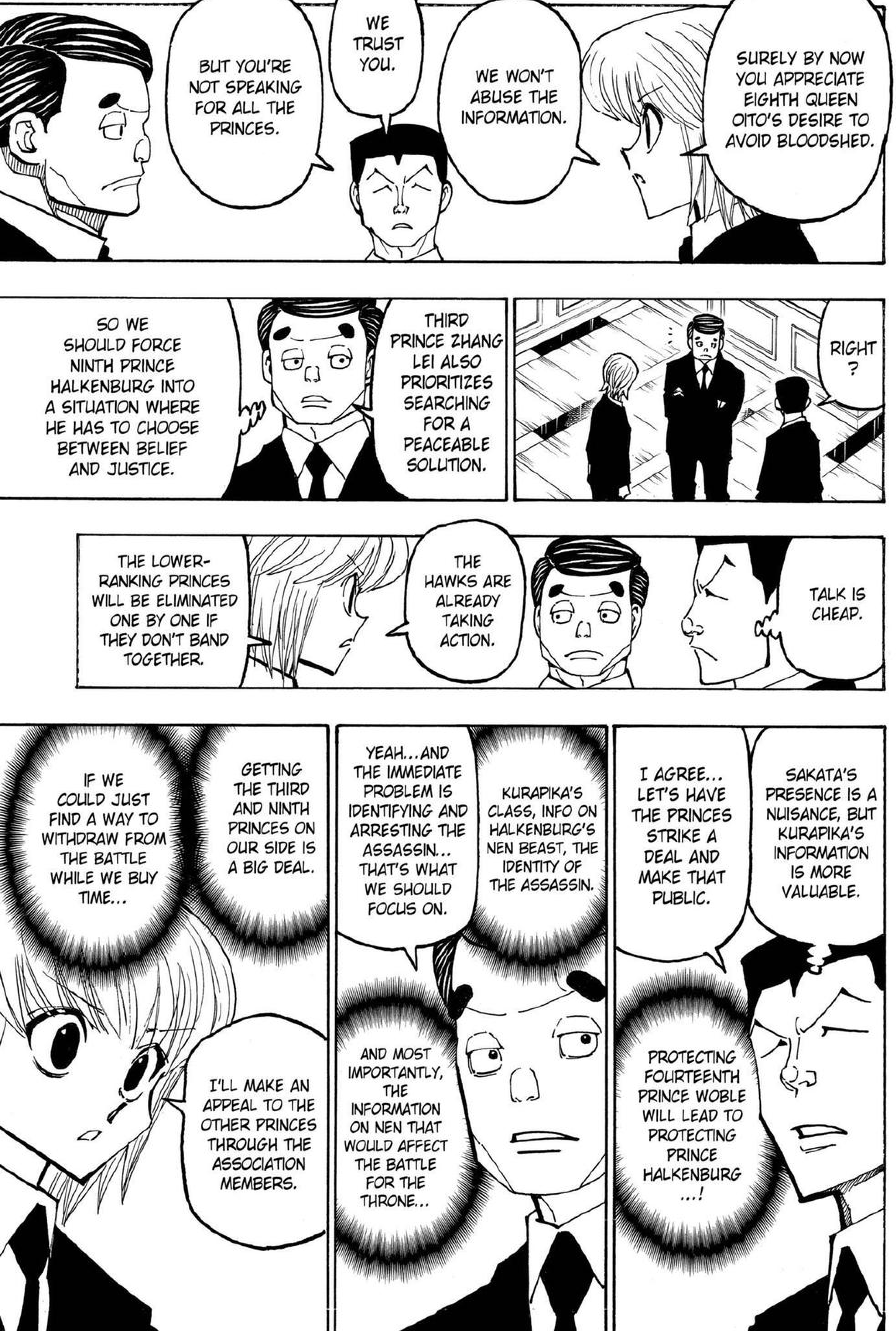

THAT'S ALL FOR TODAY.
1014
SAME TIME TOMORROW.
DAY 2, 12:30 P.M.
...
NOTHING FROM THE ASSASSIN SINCE...
ONE KILL A DAY...?
FIVE GUARDS WERE KILLED ON THE FIRST DAY.
THE CONDITIONS MUST NOT HAVE BEEN MET THIS TIME.
KURAPIKA.
I'D LIKE TO BE PRESENT.
I'M SORRY, BUT...
...IF THERE IS A NEED TO KNOW...
...WE HAVE IT. AND THE RIGHT TO KNOW.
IF WE CAN'T PRIORITIZE PRINCE ZHANG LEI TO GET INFORMATION, THERE'S NO REASON FOR US TO STAY.
DO YOU REALLY THINK YOU CAN GET THROUGH THIS WITH YOU AND BILL ALONE? WASN'T IT UNEXPECTED THAT THEY KILLED WHILE EVERYONE WAS WATCHING?

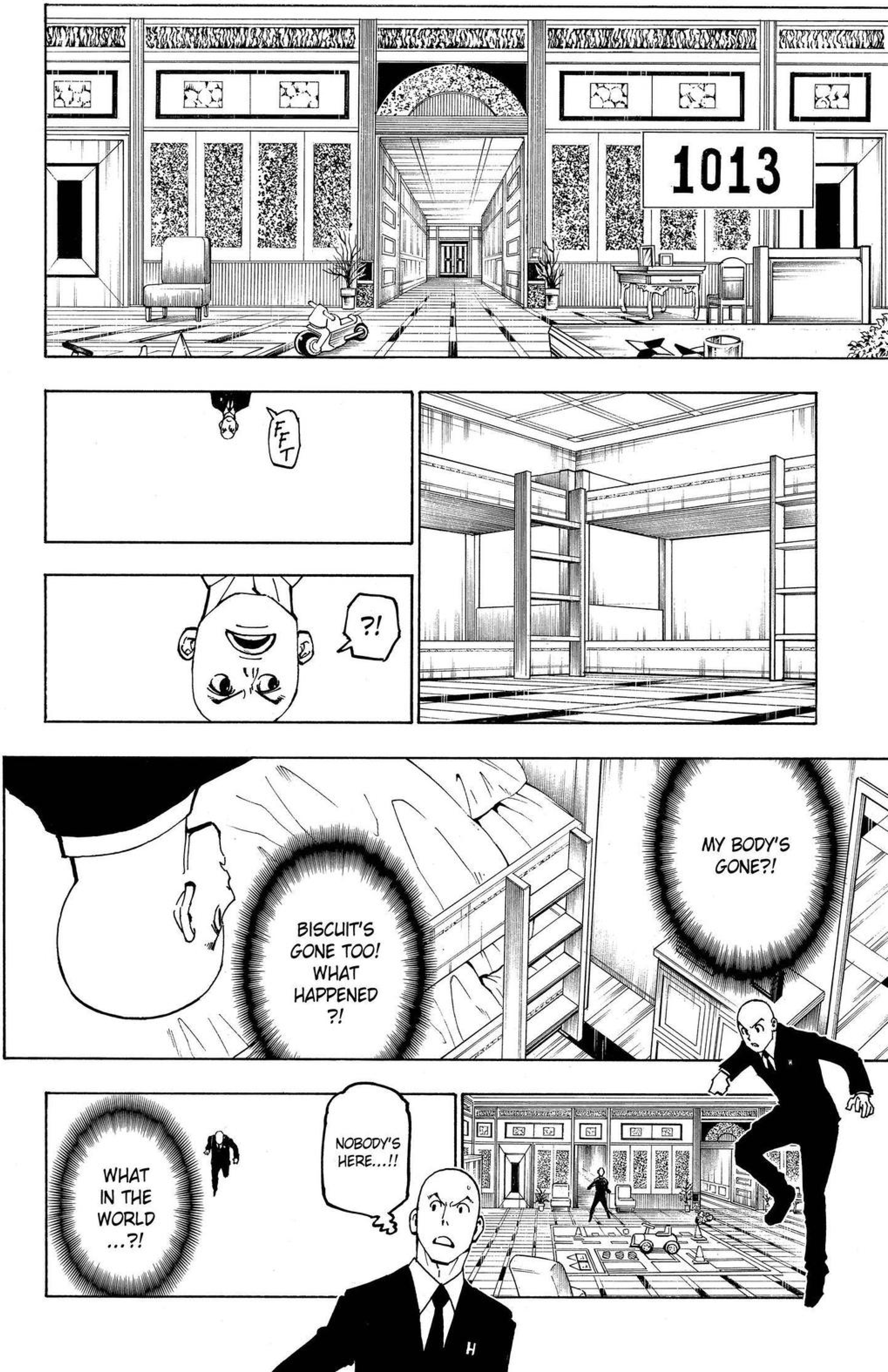

I GUARANTEE YOU'LL GET THE INFORMATION, BUT THIS TIME YOU'LL HAVE TO WAIT.
THIS MUST BE THE PROBLEM BILL WAS TALKING ABOUT JUST BEFORE I BLACKED OUT...!
NO.
YOU KNOW I'M RIGHT, SECURITY-WISE.
I NEED YOU TO SHARE ALL INFORMATION ON NEN THAT ARISES HERE.
IF YOU'RE ARGUING ABOUT US...
...I'LL OFFER A COMPROMISE.
PRINCE HALKENBURG WOULD RATHER CALL THIS WHOLE THING OFF, IF POSSIBLE.
WE NEED INFORMATION ON THE NEN BEASTS IN ORDER TO SETTLE THIS PEACEFULLY.

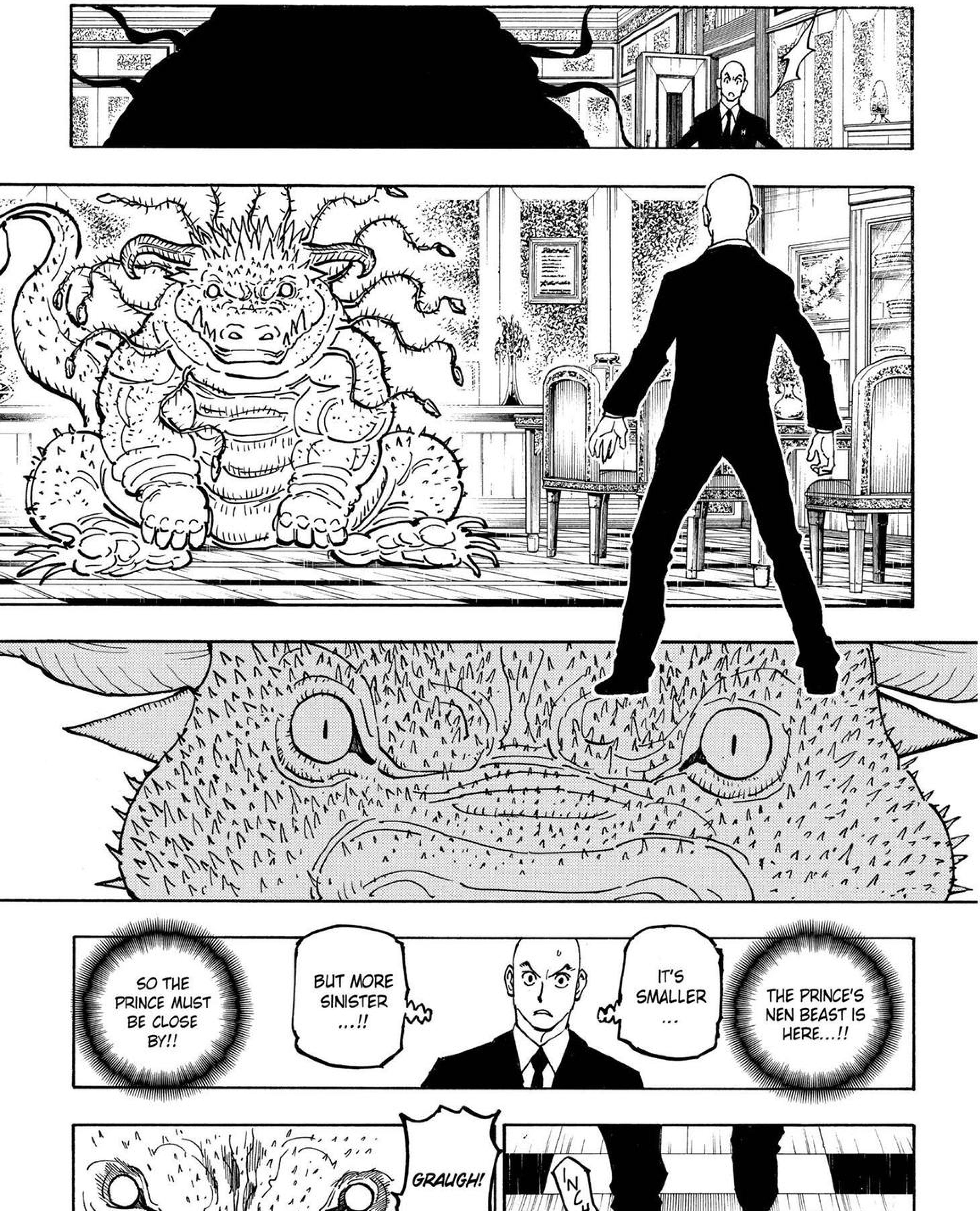

ALL THE GUARDS HAD THIS MARK ON THEIR LEFT HANDS, INCLUDING THE PRINCE.
IT WON'T WASH OFF, LIKE A TATTOO.
ACCORDING TO THE PRINCE, HE PASSED OUT RIGHT AFTER HE SAW US ALL UNCONSCIOUS.
WHEN HE CAME TO, THIS MARK WAS ON HIS HAND.
WHAT'S STRANGE IS WE DON'T REMEMBER BLACKING OUT.
AND IT DIDN'T OCCUR TO US AS UNNATURAL THAT HE WAS SLEEPING AT AN ODD HOUR.
MEMORY REVISION IS COMMON IN MANIPULATOR ATTACKS.
WITH THE MEMORY OF THE ATTACKERS ERASED, VICTIMS ARE LESS LIKELY TO PANIC AT THE SUDDEN APPEARANCE OF THE MARK.
MEMORY REVISIONS ARE OVERWHELMINGLY USED BY SOLICITING MANIPULATORS.
SOLICITING...?
THE TARGET IS MADE TO WORK FOR THE MANIPULATOR WITHIN THE CHOICES HE IS GIVEN.
COERCIVE: DEPRIVING THE TARGET'S FREEDOM IN MIND AND BODY. PSEUDO-COERCIVE: TAKING PHYSICAL FREEDOM, OR DRIVING THEM INTO A SITUATION WHERE THEY HAVE NO CHOICE. (TWELFTH PRINCE MOMOZE'S NEN BEAST WAS THIS TYPE)
IT USES COMPARATIVELY LESS ENERGY TO MANIPULATE MORE PEOPLE.
THE MARK HAS THE SAME EFFECT AS WHAT'S USED IN REAL LIFE.
YUHIRAI.
A PEN CAN RECORD, TEACH, CLASSIFY, SIGN, THREATEN, ETC. HOW WOULD YOU INTERPRET THIS MARK CONSIDERING THE NINTH PRINCE'S PERSONALITY?
...

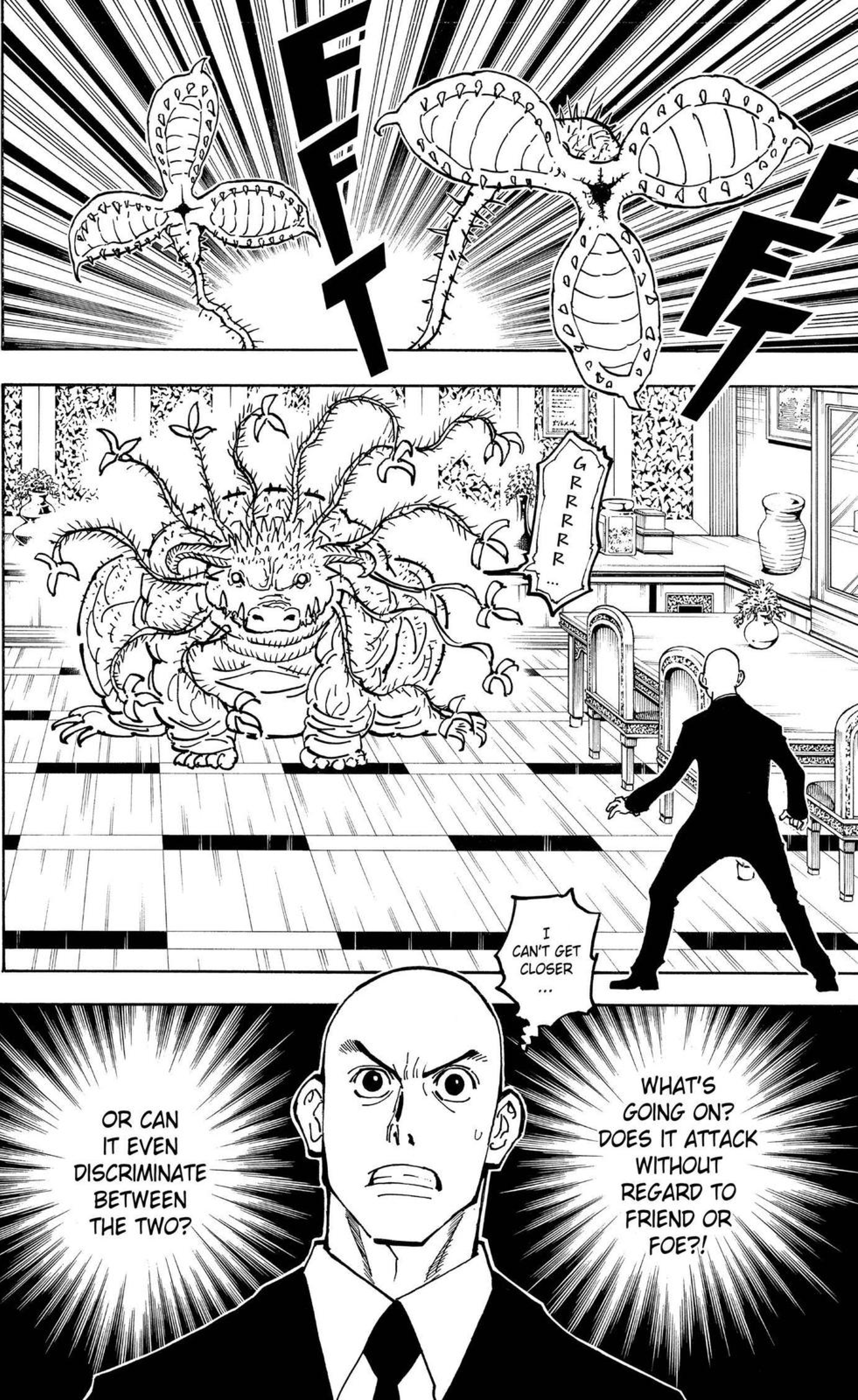

EXPRESSION OF DETERMINATION AND SOLIDARITY WOULD BE CLOSEST.
THE PRINCE KEEPS HIS RESOLVE TO HIMSELF, BUT WHEN IT COMES TO GROUP DECISIONS, HIS NATURAL CHARISMA INFLUENCES THE RESULTS.
SO THIS MARK...
...IS PROOF OF THOSE WHO SHARE THE SAME ASPIRATIONS!
I AGREE.
IT MAKES SENSE THAT IT WAS PLACED IN A VERY VISIBLE LOCATION.
BUT HIS ASPIRATIONS ARE PROBLEMATIC.
YES.
THEY'RE CLEARLY CONTRADICTORY.
?
WITH WHAT?
NINTH PRINCE HALKENBURG DESIRES THE ABOLITION OF THE MONARCHY.
THIS BATTLE FOR THE THRONE IS A GOLDEN OPPORTUNITY.
BUT KILLING EACH OTHER IS NOT WHAT HE WANTS! HE TOLD THE KING HE WISHED TO WITHDRAW, HOPING IT WOULD END THE CONTEST.
HIS SENSE OF JUSTICE CONFLICTS WITH HIS AMBITION.
HE'S COMMITTED TO HIS MORALS EVEN IF THAT'S THE LONG, DIFFICULT PATH.
BUT THAT MAY NOT BE WHAT THE NEN BEAST WANTS!
...

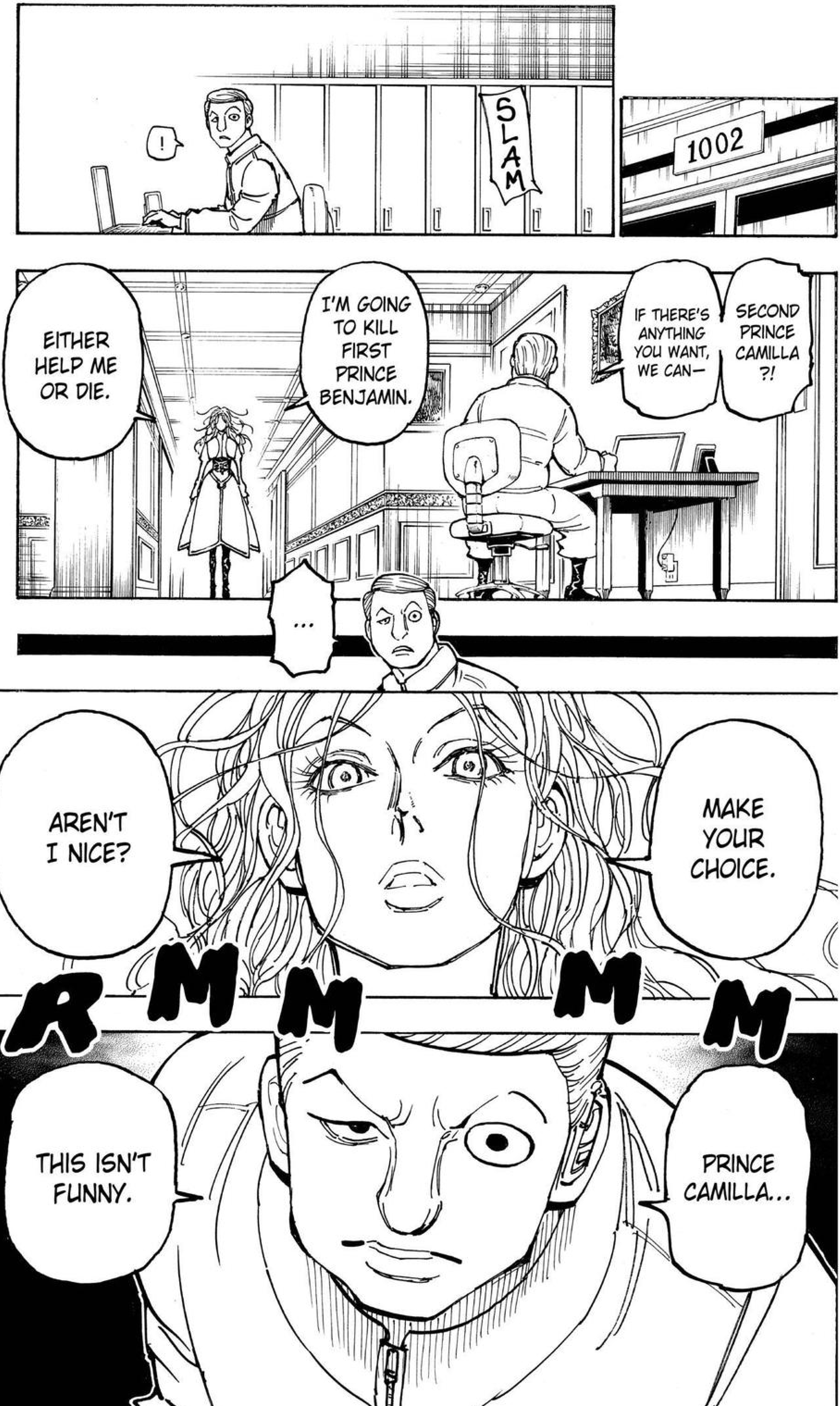

CAN YOU SEE THE NUMBER ON MY FINGER, BY THE WAY?
VMM
4
AN AURA? NO...
SO YOU'RE HALF-AWAKENED.
YOU CAN USE NEN IN A LIMITED FASHION, BUT YOU CAN'T CONTROL IT YOURSELF,
THE ACTIVATION MUST HAVE BEEN TIED TO THE PRINCE'S ACTIONS.
BUT IF THE PRINCE IS SIMILARLY MARKED...
...IT'S A DANGEROUS SIGN.
?!
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
IF THERE ARE NO DIFFERENCES IN THE MARK, IT INDICATES THAT THE PRINCE THINKS HE AND HIS SUPPORTERS ARE EQUAL IN ASPIRATION.
THAT IDEA ITSELF IS GREAT, BUT IT SHOWS THE RISKS OF THE ABILITY ARE ALSO EQUALLY BORNE AMONG THE MARKED.
THE MORE POWERFUL IT IS, THE MORE SEVERE THE LIMITATIONS, AND THE STRONGER THE RECOIL UPON FAILURE.
IF THE PRINCE IS AS HIS REPUTATION SAYS, I WOULDN'T BE SURPRISED IF IT RISKS HIS LIFE.
IT'S IMPORTANT FOR EVERYONE WITH THE MARK TO ELUCIDATE THE WHOLE PICTURE OF THE ABILITY AS SOON AS POSSIBLE SO HIS FAITH DOESN'T BECOME POISON.
...
ALL RIGHT.
TELL ME ANYTHING YOU FIND OUT ABOUT HIS ABILITY, AND I CAN GENERATE A SPECIFIC PLAN.
...
THAT'S A GREAT OFFER BUT...


SURELY BY NOW YOU APPRECIATE EIGHTH QUEEN OITO'S DESIRE TO AVOID BLOODSHED.
WE WON'T ABUSE THE INFORMATION.
WE TRUST YOU.
BUT YOU'RE NOT SPEAKING FOR ALL THE PRINCES.
RIGHT?
THIRD PRINCE ZHANG LEI ALSO PRIORITIZES SEARCHING FOR A PEACEABLE SOLUTION.
SO WE SHOULD FORCE NINTH PRINCE HALKENBURG INTO A SITUATION WHERE HE HAS TO CHOOSE BETWEEN BELIEF AND JUSTICE.
TALK IS CHEAP.
THE HAWKS ARE ALREADY TAKING ACTION.
THE LOWER-RANKING PRINCES WILL BE ELIMINATED ONE BY ONE IF THEY DON'T BAND TOGETHER.
SAKATA'S PRESENCE IS A NUISANCE, BUT KURAPIKA'S INFORMATION IS MORE VALUABLE.
I AGREE... LET'S HAVE THE PRINCES STRIKE A DEAL AND MAKE THAT PUBLIC.
PROTECTING FOURTEENTH PRINCE WOBLE WILL LEAD TO PROTECTING PRINCE HALKENBURG ...!
KURAPIKA'S CLASS, INFO ON HALKENBURG'S NEN BEAST, THE IDENTITY OF THE ASSASSIN.
YEAH...AND THE IMMEDIATE PROBLEM IS IDENTIFYING AND ARRESTING THE ASSASSIN... THAT'S WHAT WE SHOULD FOCUS ON.
AND MOST IMPORTANTLY, THE INFORMATION ON NEN THAT WOULD AFFECT THE BATTLE FOR THE THRONE...
GETTING THE THIRD AND NINTH PRINCES ON OUR SIDE IS A BIG DEAL.
IF WE COULD JUST FIND A WAY TO WITHDRAW FROM THE BATTLE WHILE WE BUY TIME...
I'LL MAKE AN APPEAL TO THE OTHER PRINCES THROUGH THE ASSOCIATION MEMBERS.

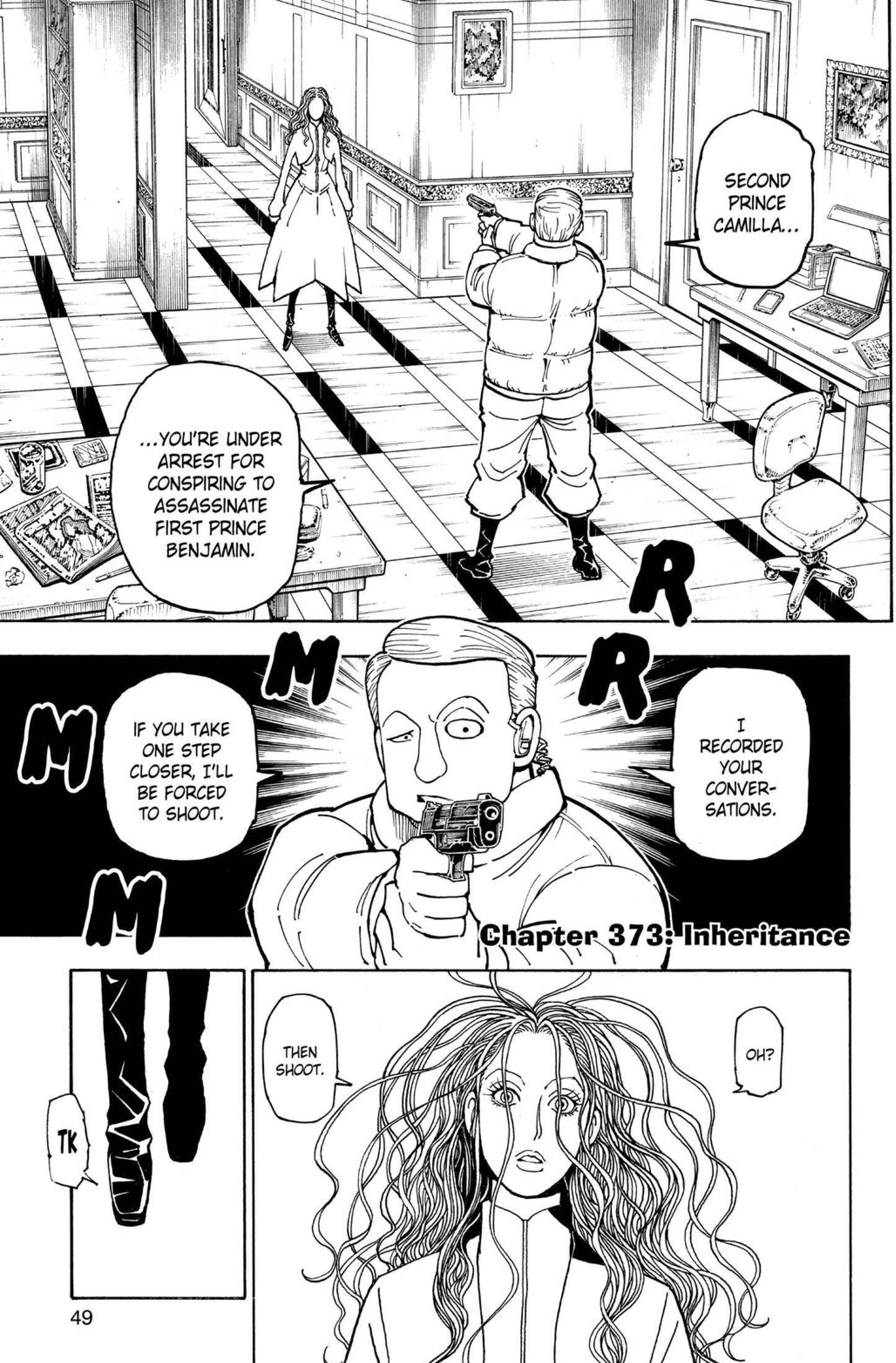

1013
FFT
?!
MY BODY'S GONE?!
BISCUIT'S GONE TOO! WHAT HAPPENED ?!
NOBODY'S HERE...!!
WHAT IN THE WORLD ...?!

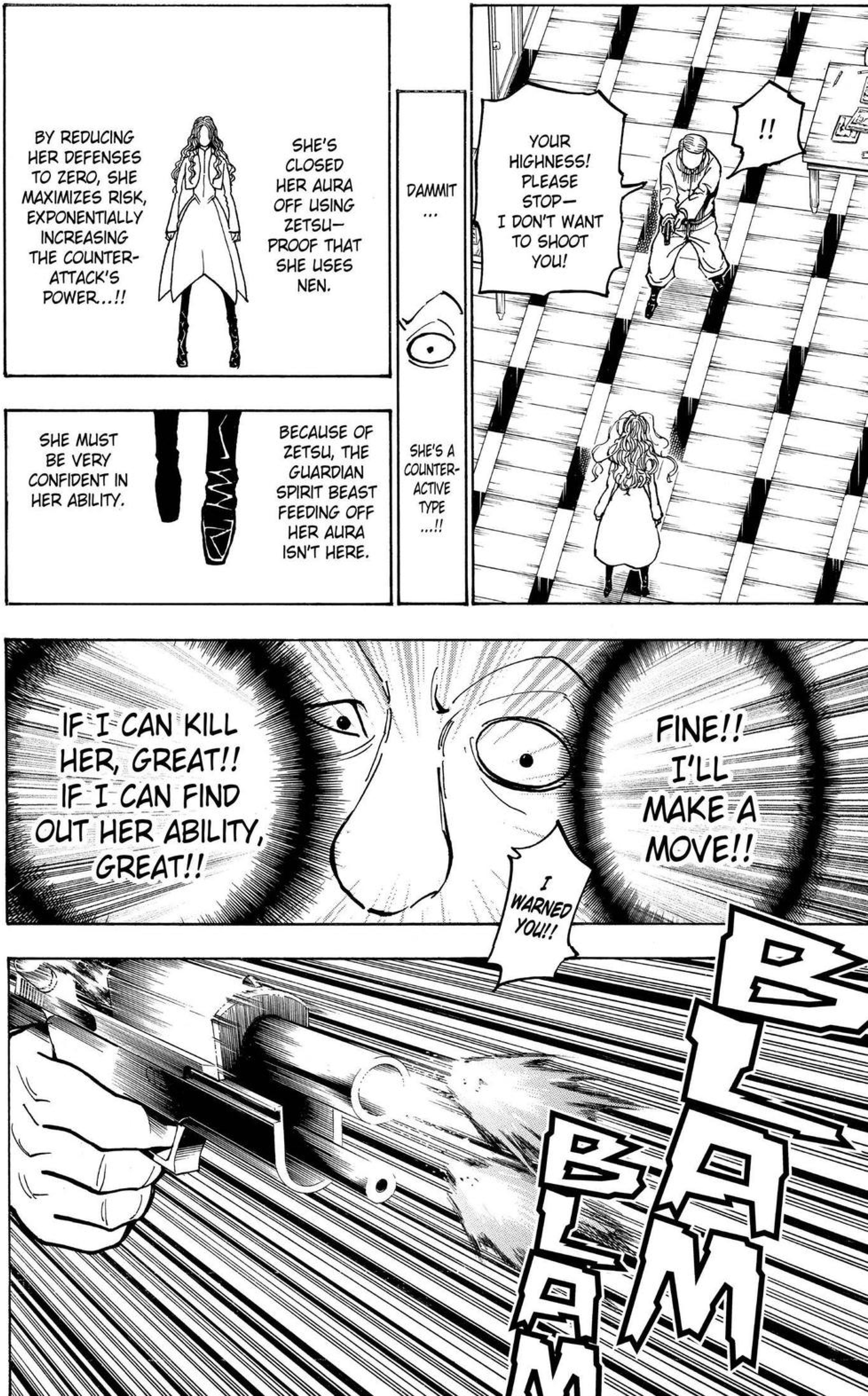

THE PRINCE'S NEN BEAST IS HERE...!!
IT'S SMALLER ...
BUT MORE SINISTER ...!!
SO THE PRINCE MUST BE CLOSE BY!!
INCH
GRAUGH!

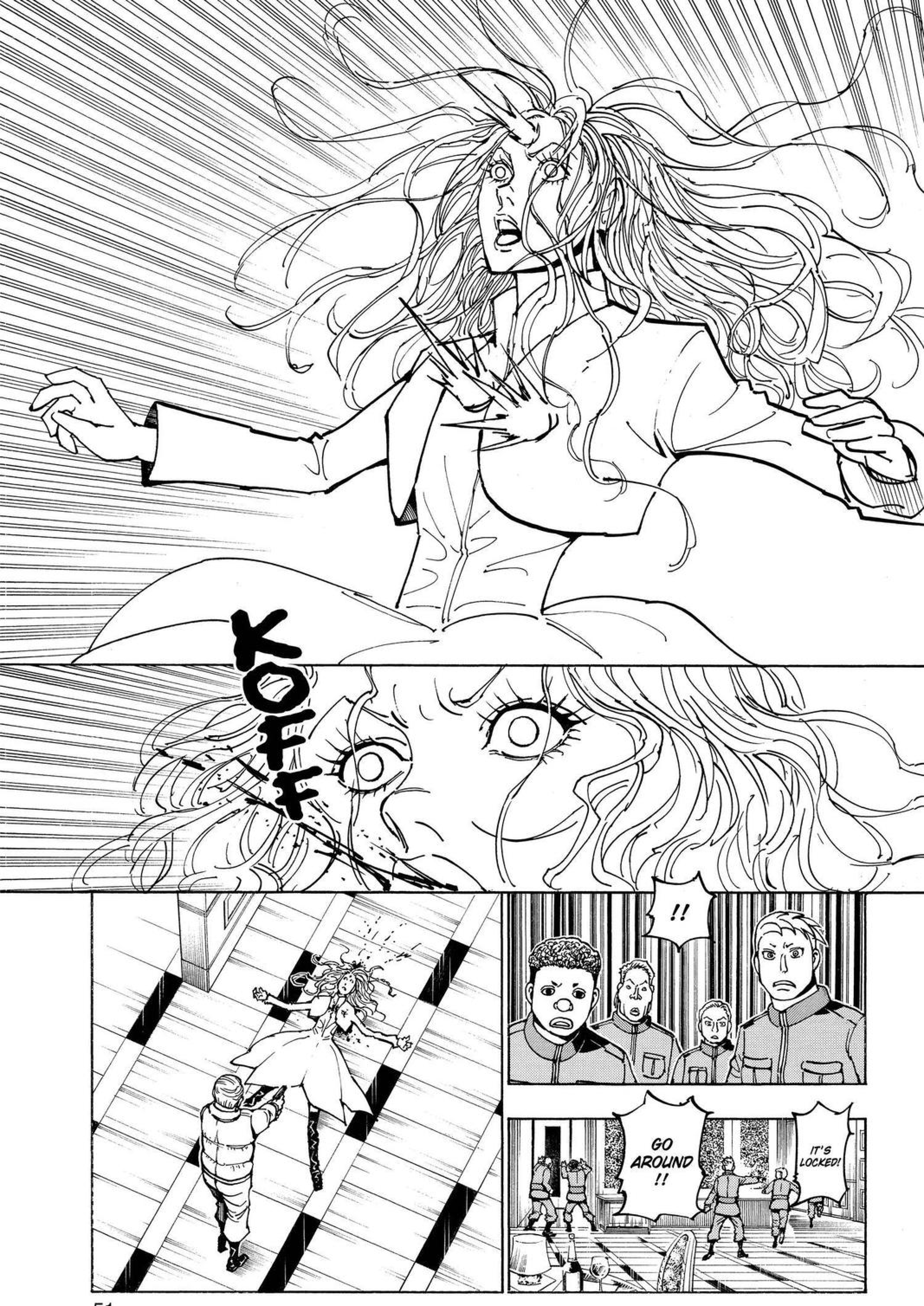

FFT
FFT
GRRRRR…
I CAN'T GET CLOSER…
WHAT'S GOING ON? DOES IT ATTACK WITHOUT REGARD TO FRIEND OR FOE?!
OR CAN IT EVEN DISCRIMINATE BETWEEN THE TWO?

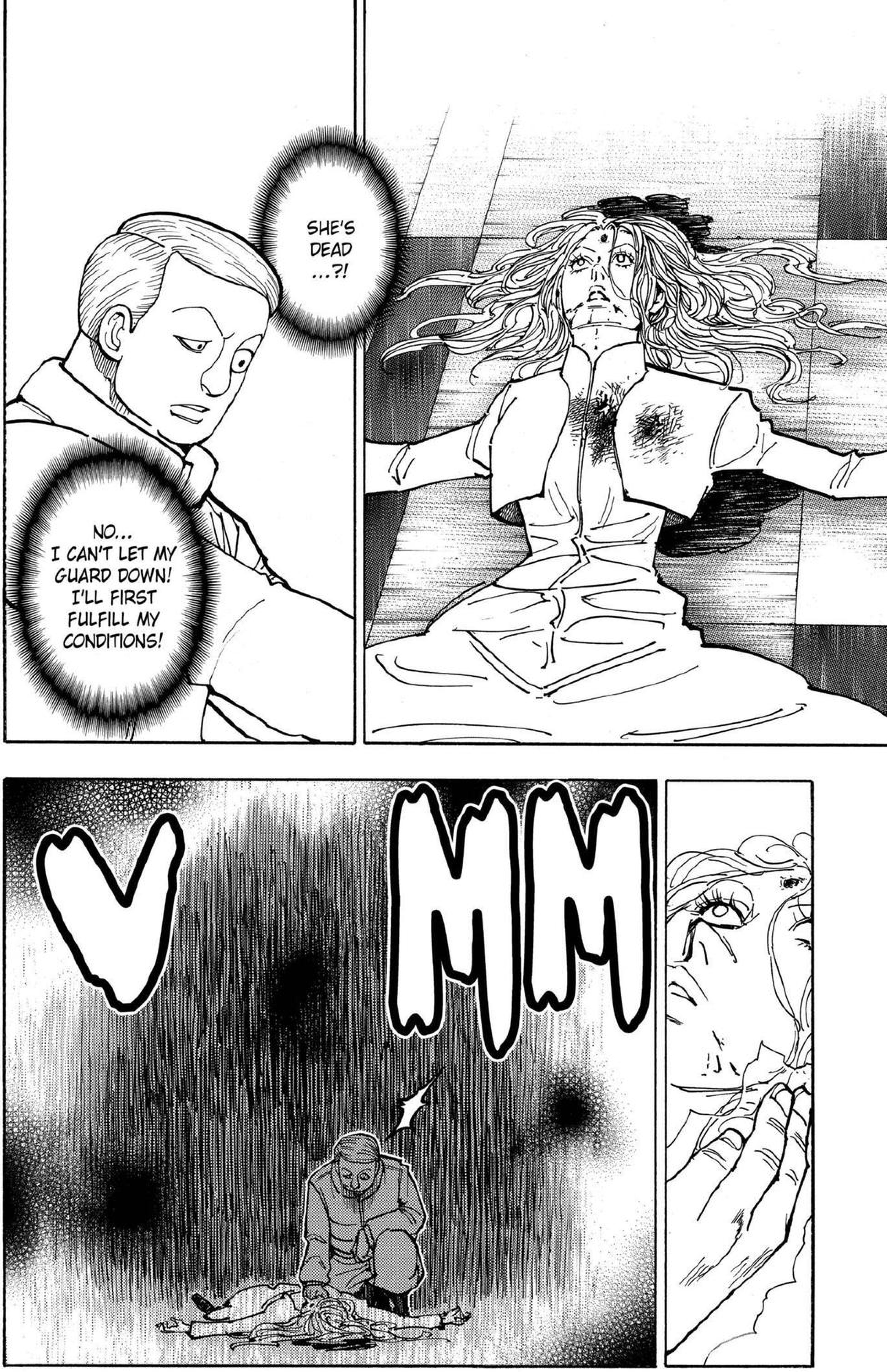

1002
SLAM
!
SECOND PRINCE CAMILLA?!
IF THERE'S ANYTHING YOU WANT, WE CAN—
I'M GOING TO KILL FIRST PRINCE BENJAMIN.
EITHER HELP ME OR DIE.
...
MAKE YOUR CHOICE.
AREN'T I NICE?
RMMMMM
PRINCE CAMILLA...
THIS ISN'T FUNNY.

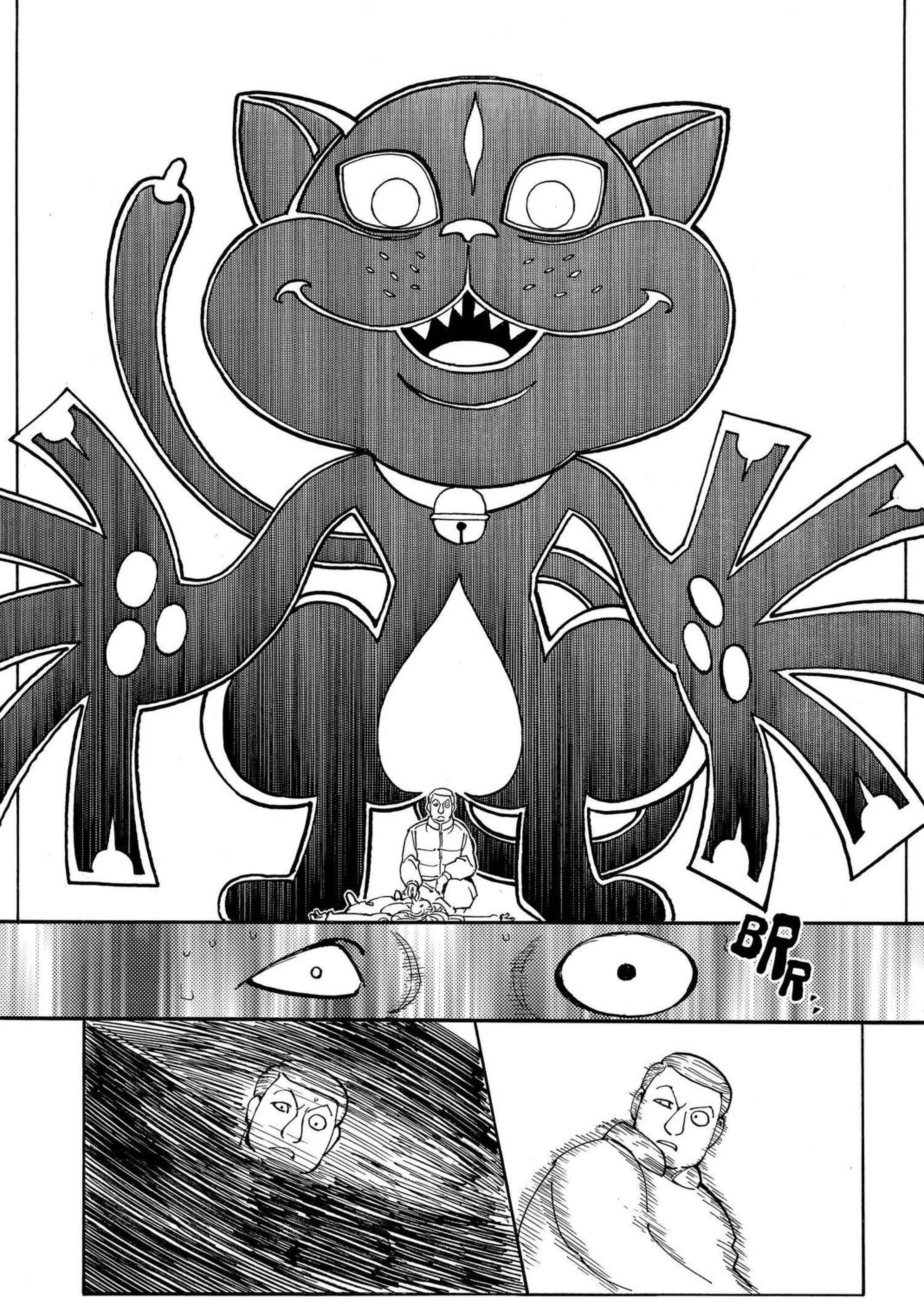
Chapter 373: Inheritance

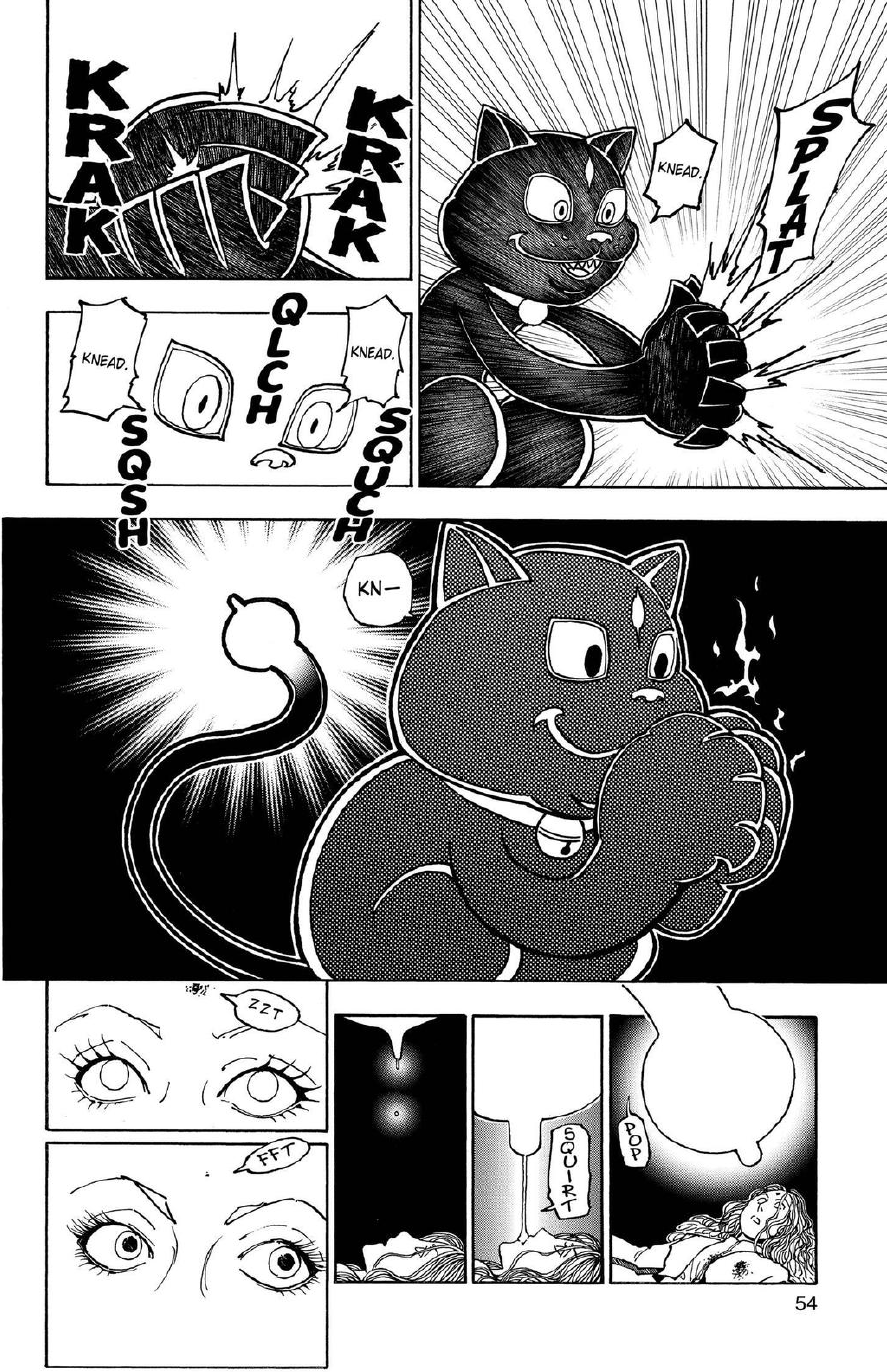

SECOND PRINCE CAMILLA...
...YOU'RE UNDER ARREST FOR CONSPIRING TO ASSASSINATE FIRST PRINCE BENJAMIN.
R
R
M
I RECORDED YOUR CONVERSATIONS.
IF YOU TAKE ONE STEP CLOSER, I'LL BE FORCED TO SHOOT.
M
M
OH?
THEN SHOOT.
TK

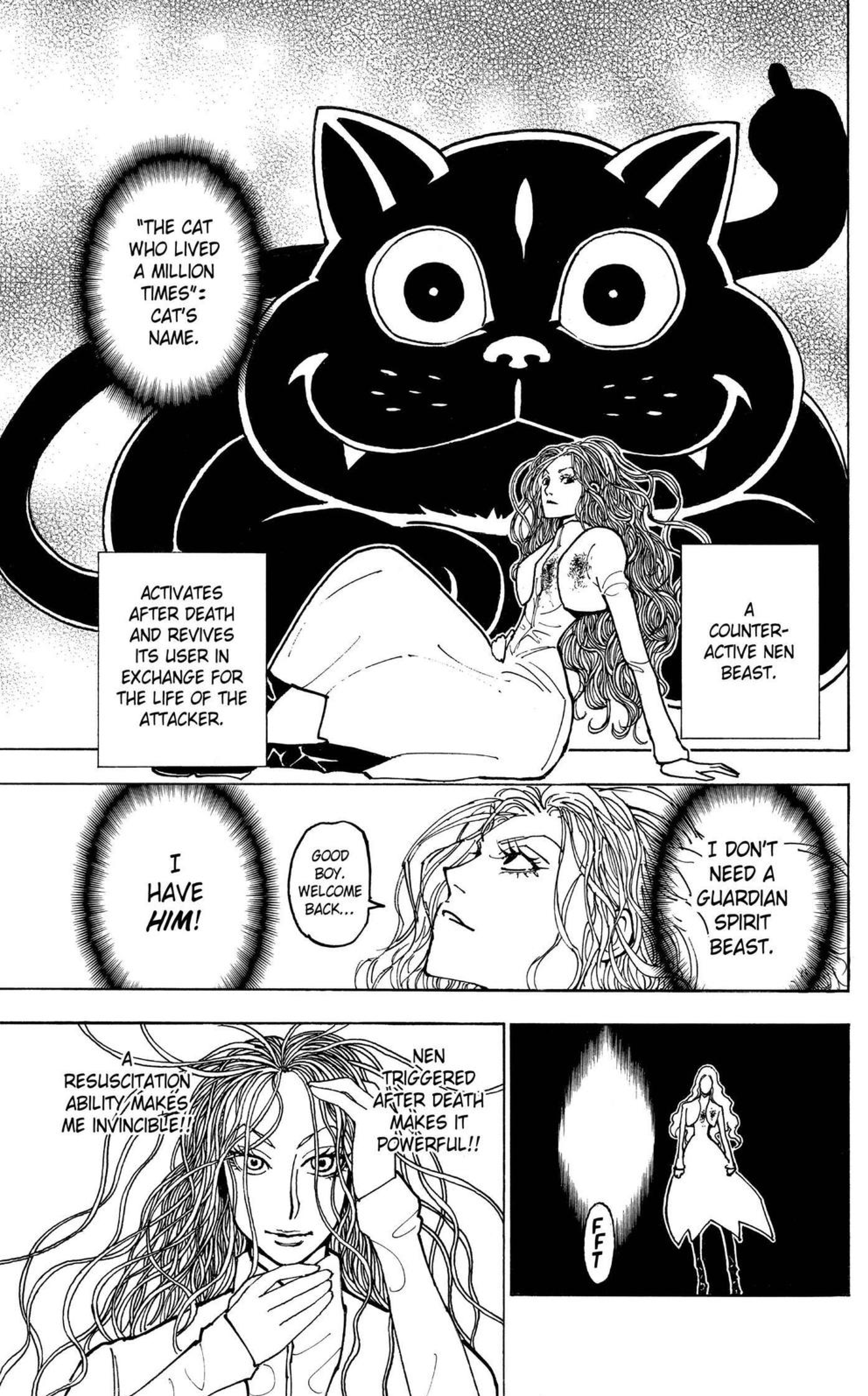

!!
YOUR HIGHNESS! PLEASE STOP— I DON'T WANT TO SHOOT YOU!
DAMMIT...
SHE'S A COUNTER-ACTIVE TYPE ...!!
SHE'S CLOSED HER AURA OFF USING ZETSU— PROOF THAT SHE USES NEN.
BY REDUCING HER DEFENSES TO ZERO, SHE MAXIMIZES RISK, EXPONENTIALLY INCREASING THE COUNTER-ATTACK'S POWER...!!
BECAUSE OF ZETSU, THE GUARDIAN SPIRIT BEAST FEEDING OFF HER AURA ISN'T HERE.
SHE MUST BE VERY CONFIDENT IN HER ABILITY.
FINE!! I'LL MAKE A MOVE!!
IF I CAN KILL HER, GREAT!! IF I CAN FIND OUT HER ABILITY, GREAT!!
I WARNED YOU!!
BLAM
BLAM

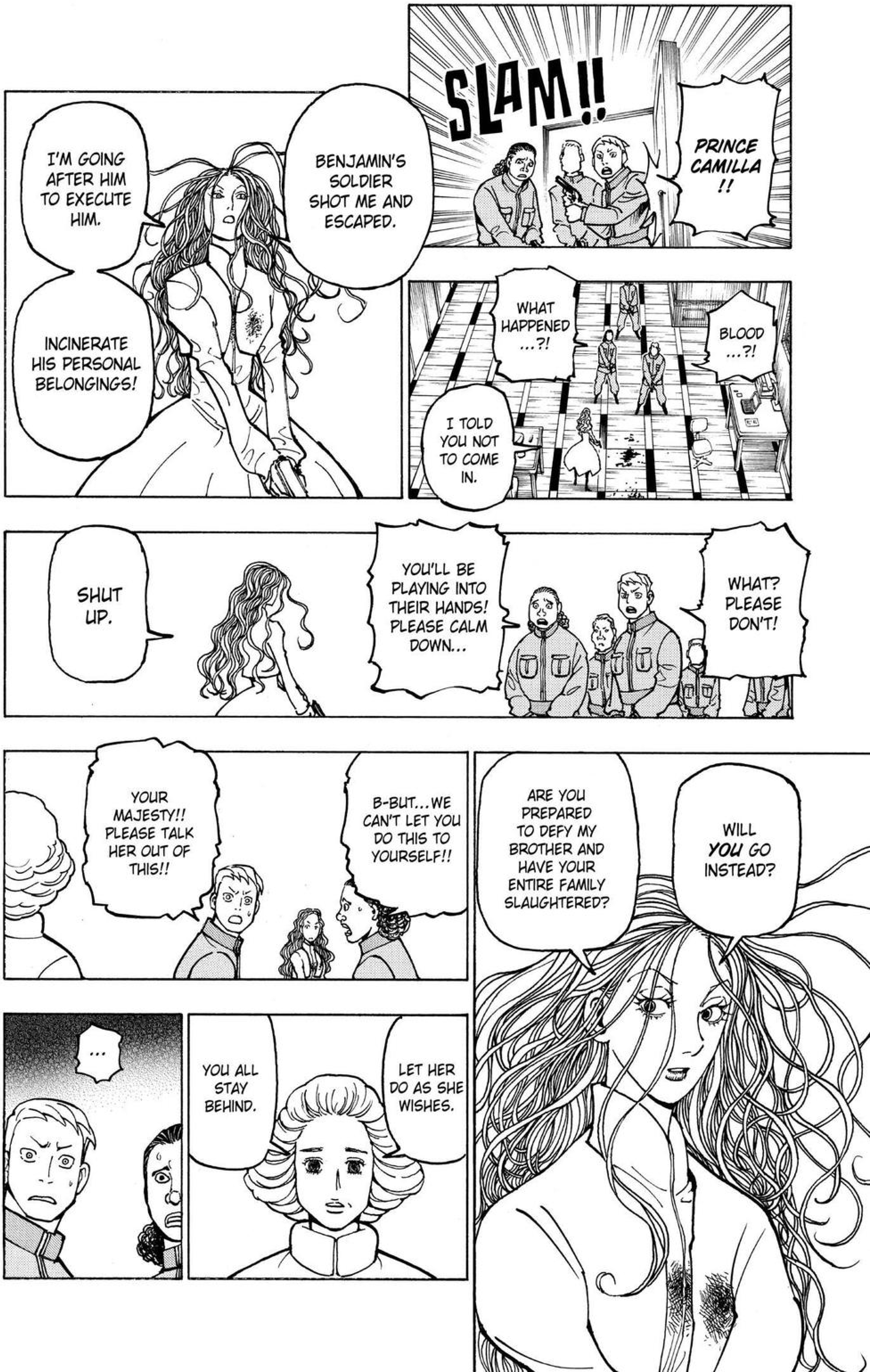

KOFF
!!
IT'S LOCKED!
GO AROUND !!

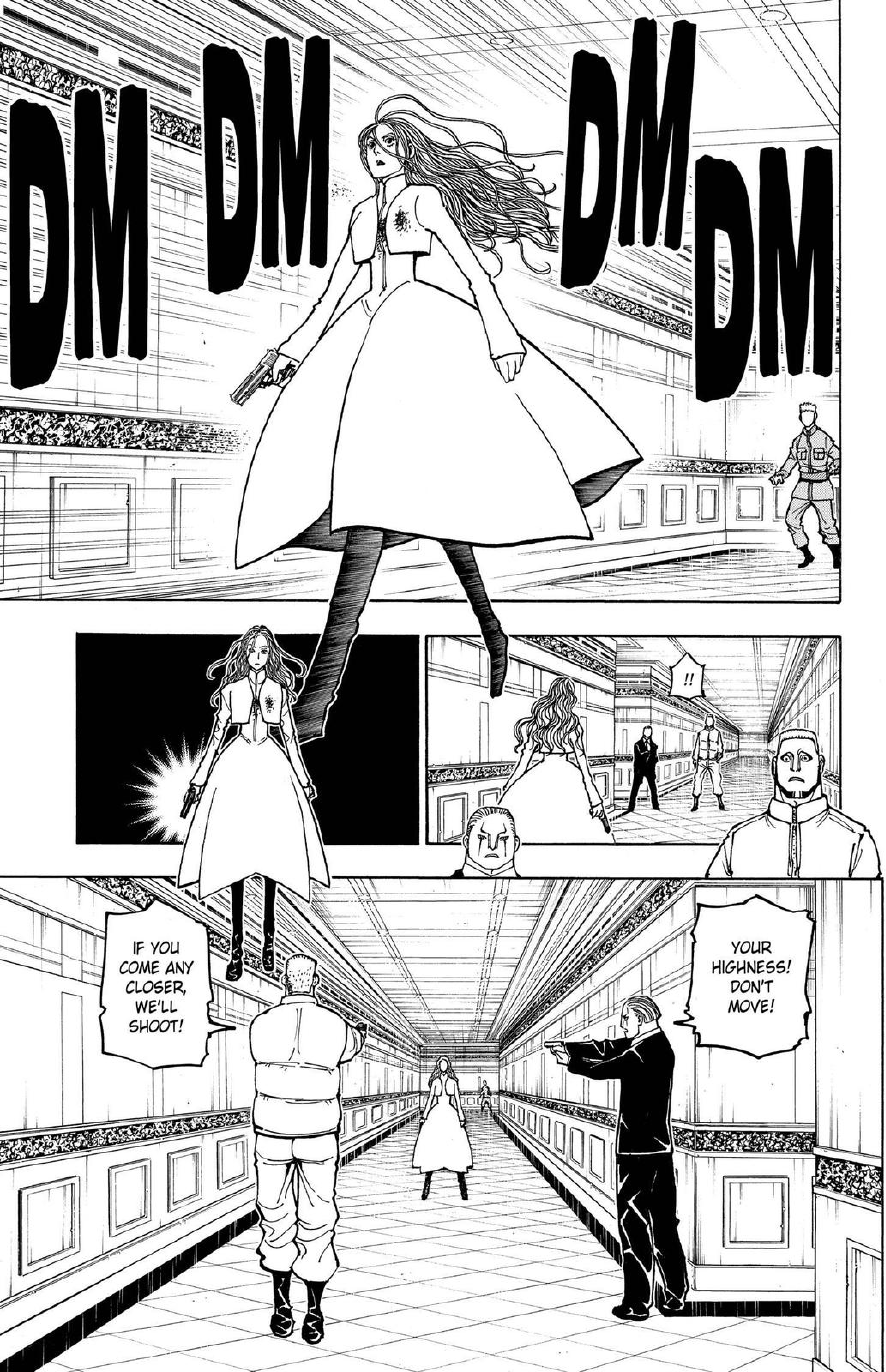

SHE'S DEAD ...?!
NO... I CAN'T LET MY GUARD DOWN! I'LL FIRST FULFILL MY CONDITIONS!
VMM

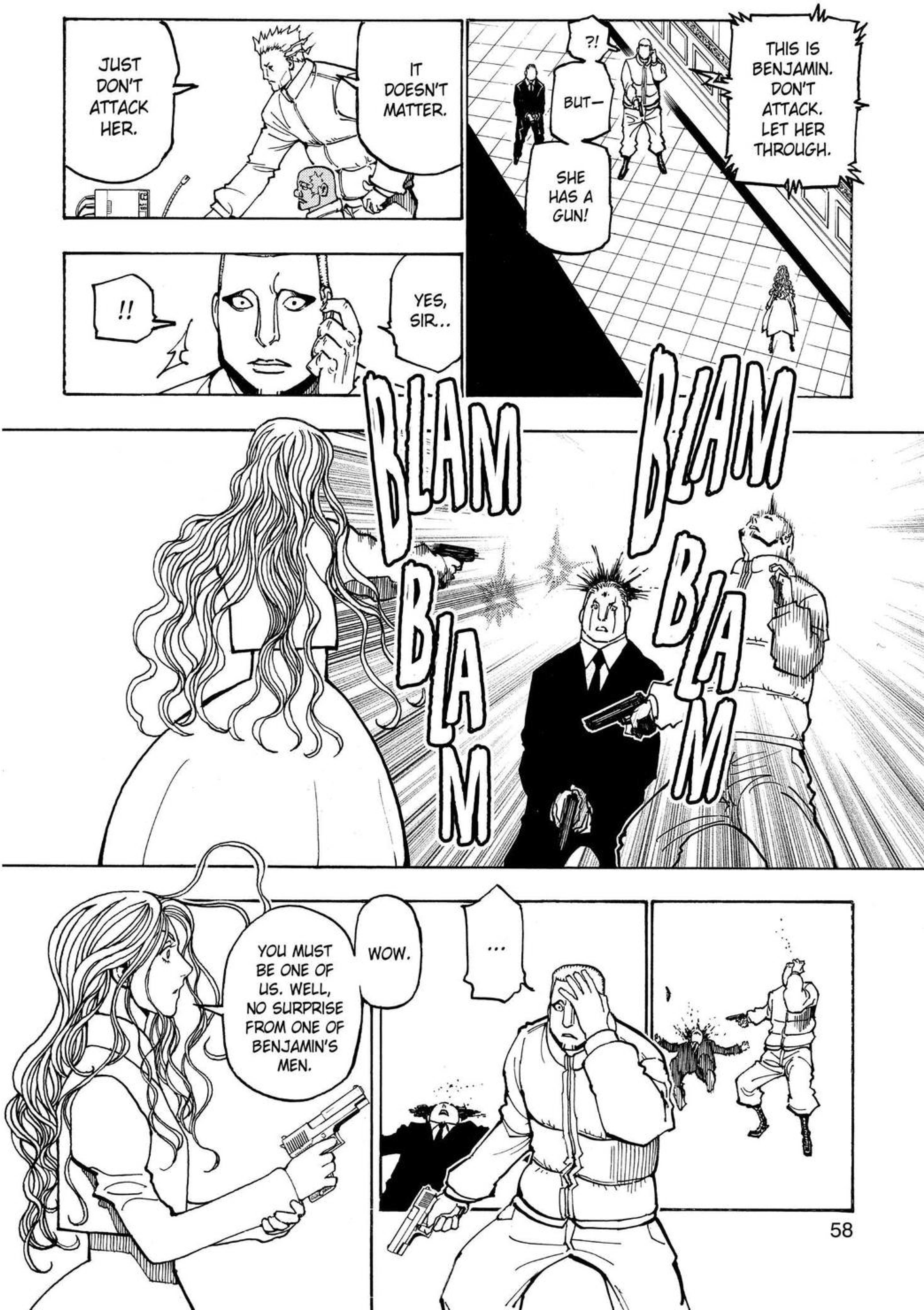

BRR

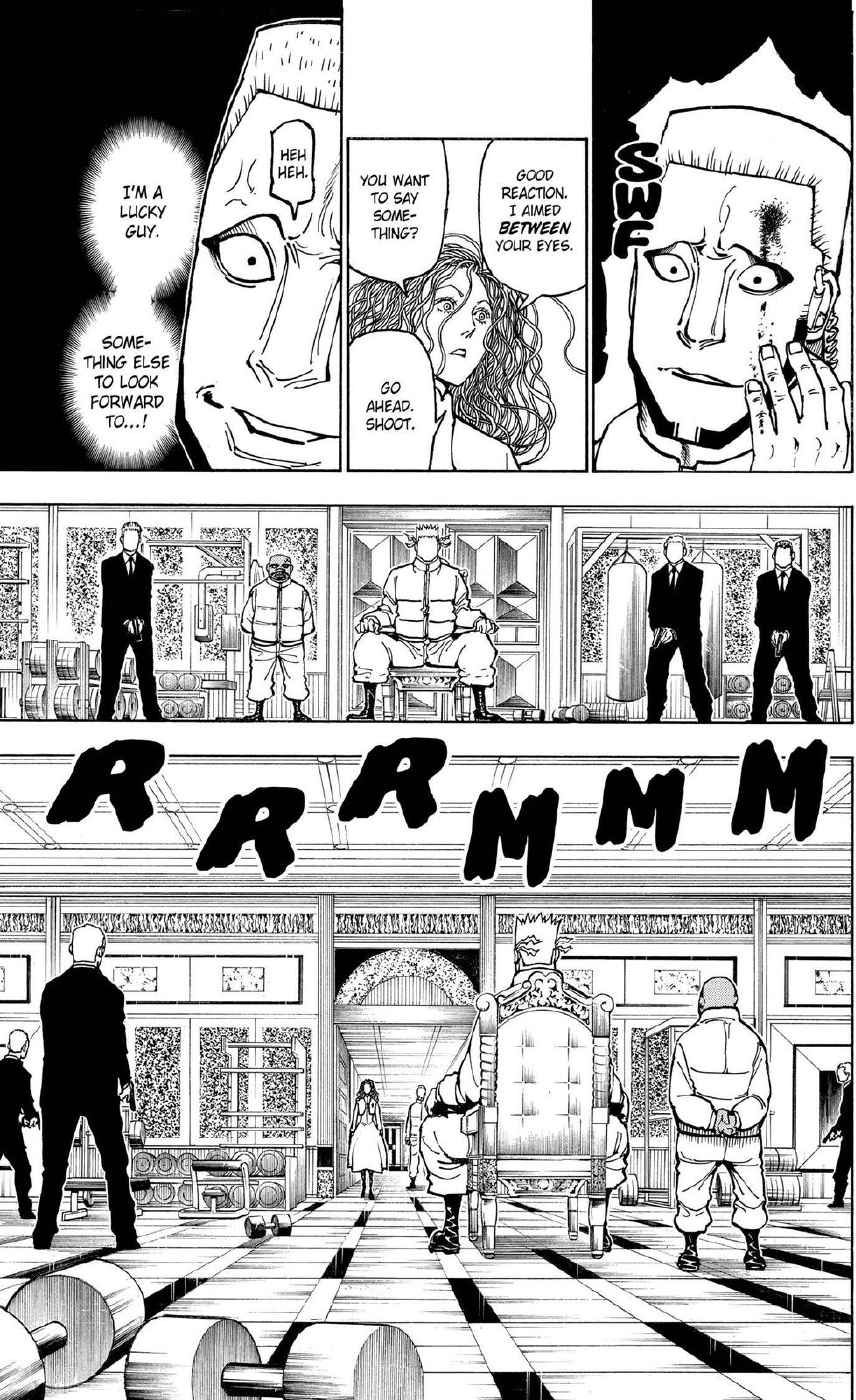

KNEAD.
SPLAT
KRAK
KRAK
KNEAD.
QLCH
KNEAD.
SQUCH
SQSH
KN—
POP
SQUIRT
ZZT
FFT

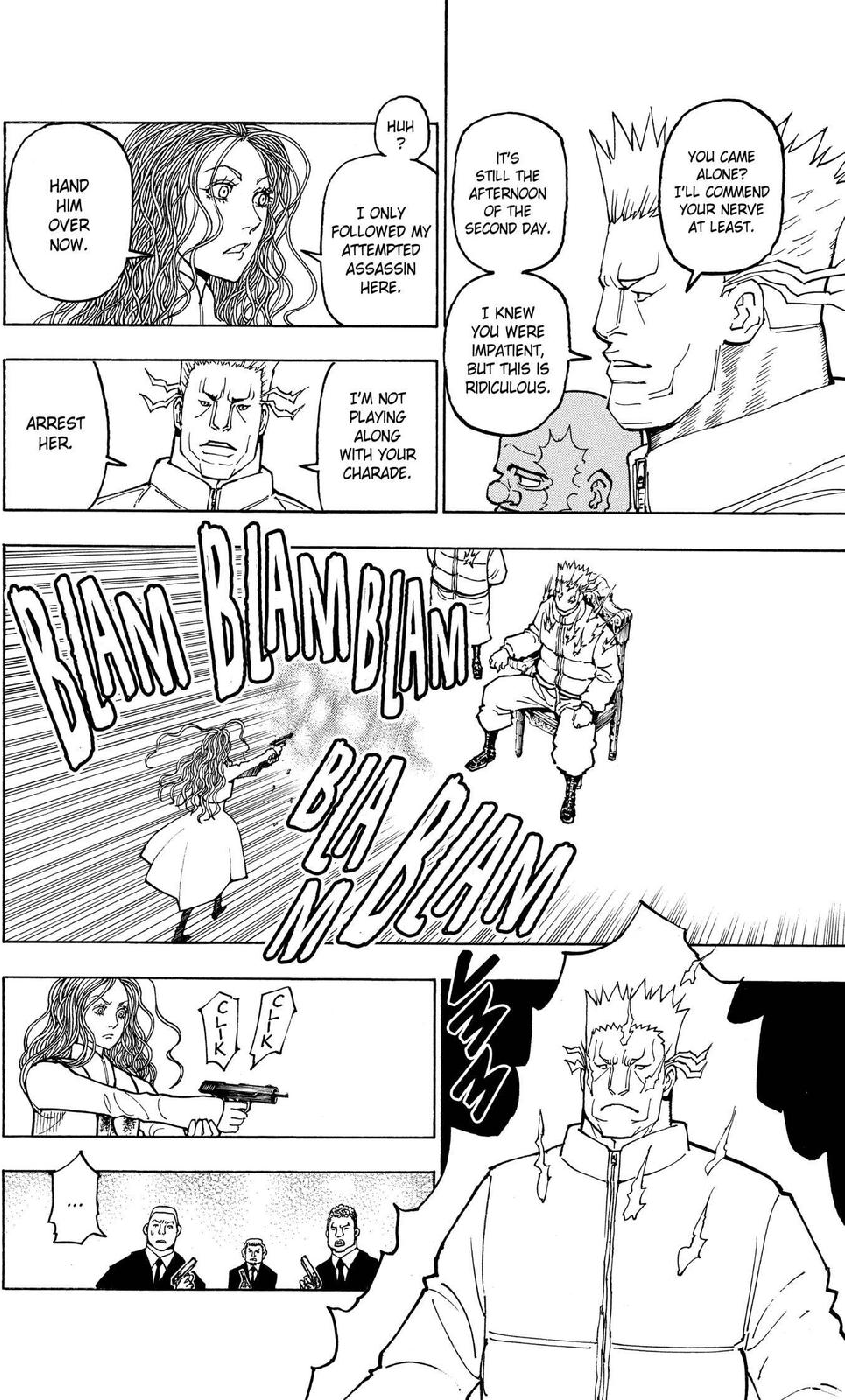

"THE CAT WHO LIVED A MILLION TIMES": CAT'S NAME.
A COUNTER-ACTIVE NEN BEAST.
ACTIVATES AFTER DEATH AND REVIVES ITS USER IN EXCHANGE FOR THE LIFE OF THE ATTACKER.
I DON'T NEED A GUARDIAN SPIRIT BEAST.
GOOD BOY. WELCOME BACK...
I HAVE *HIM*!
FFT
NEN TRIGGERED AFTER DEATH MAKES IT POWERFUL!!
A RESUSCITATION ABILITY MAKES ME INVINCIBLE!!

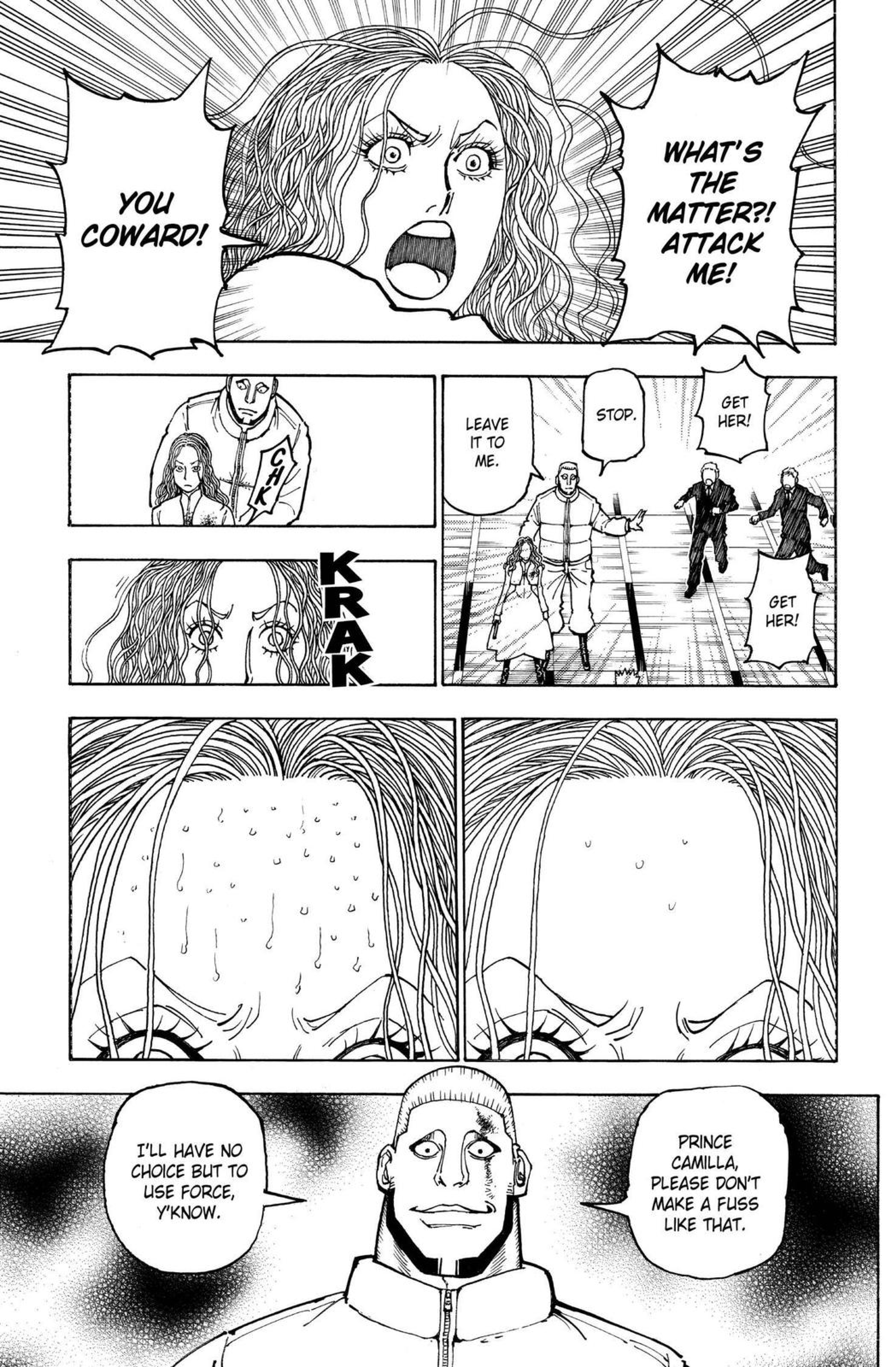

SLAM!!
PRINCE CAMILLA!!
BLOOD...?!
WHAT HAPPENED...?!
I TOLD YOU NOT TO COME IN.
BENJAMIN'S SOLDIER SHOT ME AND ESCAPED.
I'M GOING AFTER HIM TO EXECUTE HIM.
INCINERATE HIS PERSONAL BELONGINGS!
WHAT? PLEASE DON'T!
YOU'LL BE PLAYING INTO THEIR HANDS! PLEASE CALM DOWN...
SHUT UP.
WILL *YOU* GO INSTEAD?
ARE YOU PREPARED TO DEFY MY BROTHER AND HAVE YOUR ENTIRE FAMILY SLAUGHTERED?
B-BUT...WE CAN'T LET YOU DO THIS TO YOURSELF!!
YOUR MAJESTY!! PLEASE TALK HER OUT OF THIS!!
LET HER DO AS SHE WISHES.
YOU ALL STAY BEHIND.
...

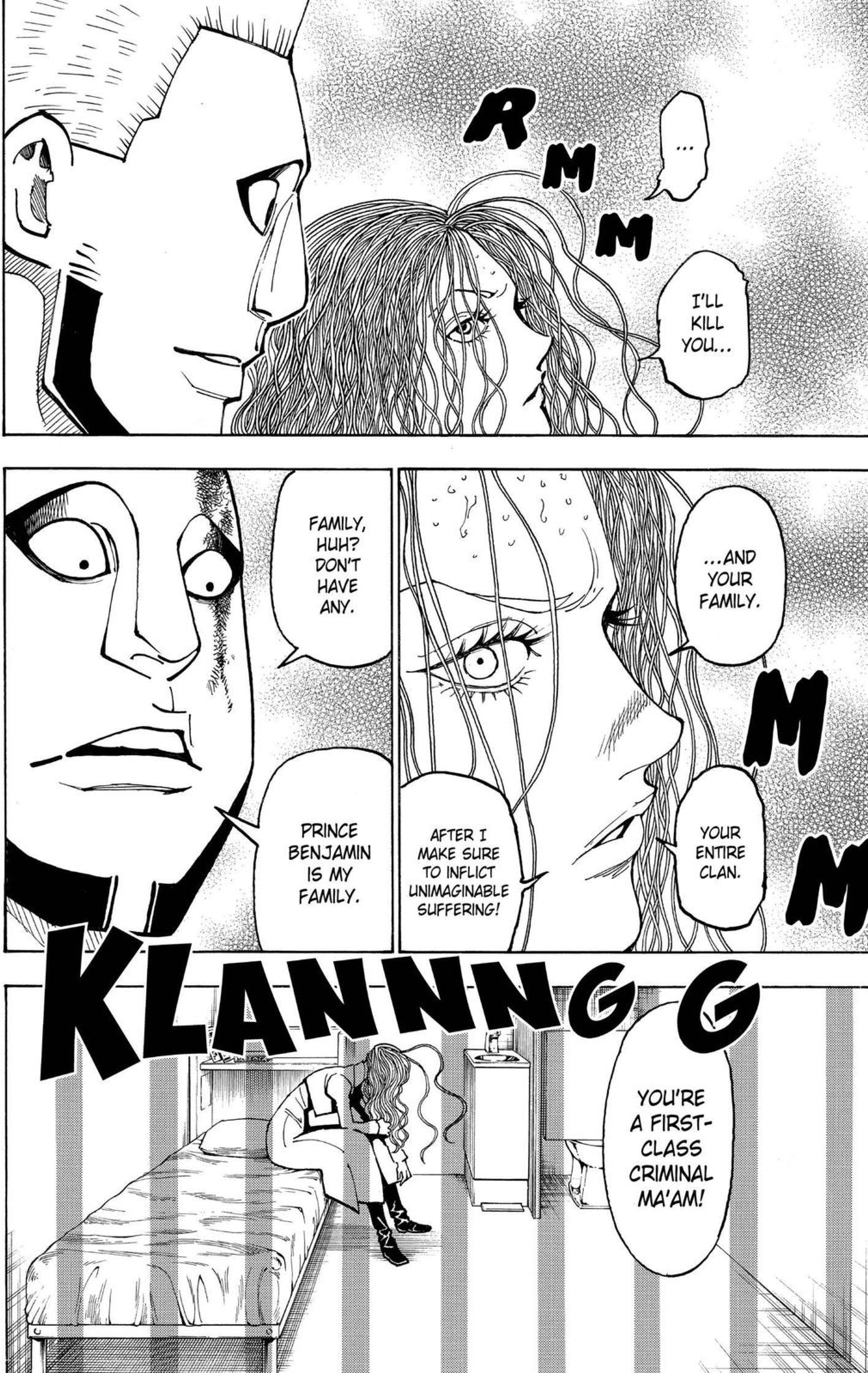

DM DM
DM DM
DM
DM
!!
YOUR HIGHNESS! DON'T MOVE!
IF YOU COME ANY CLOSER, WE'LL SHOOT!

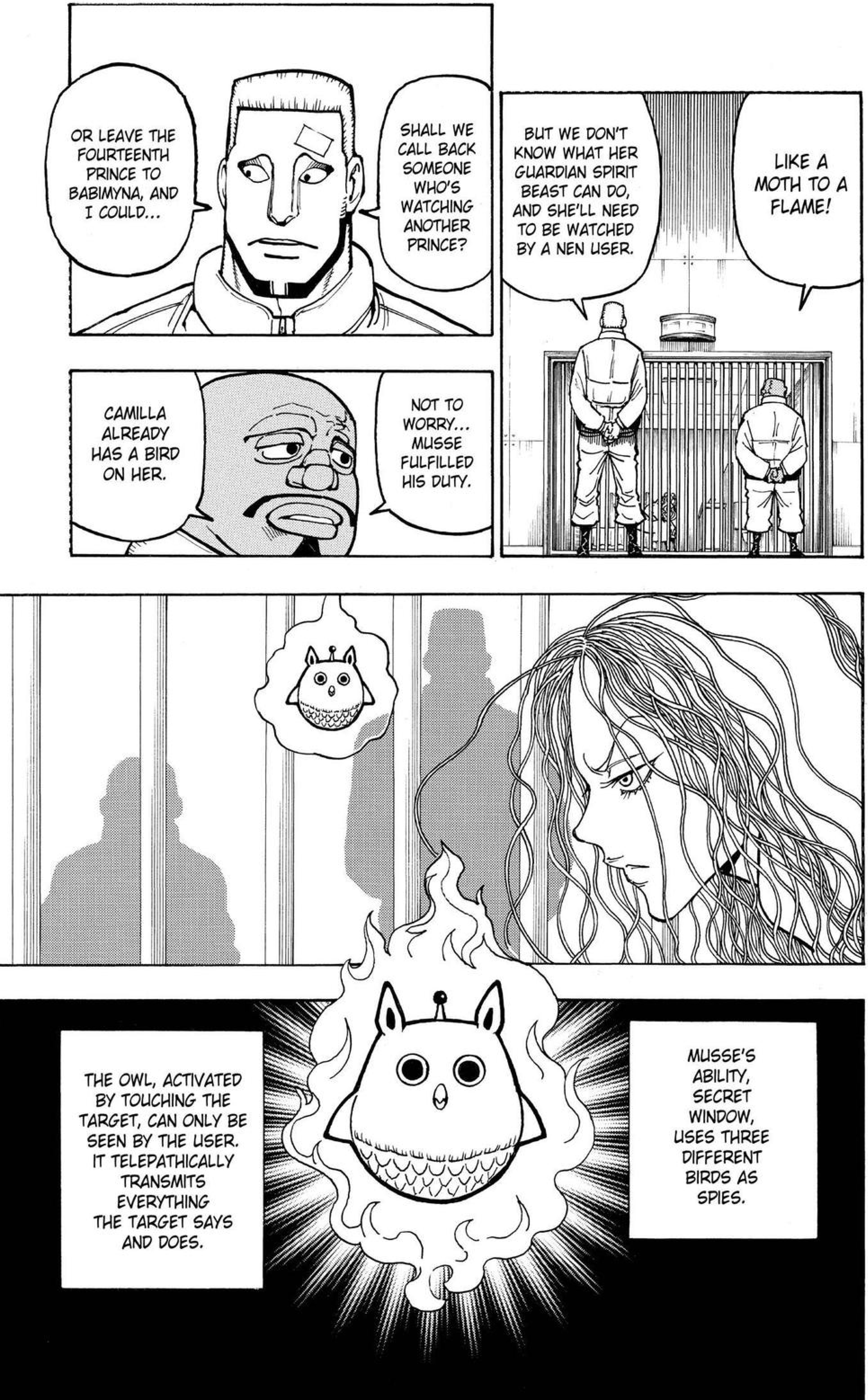

THIS IS BENJAMIN. DON'T ATTACK. LET HER THROUGH.
?!
BUT—
SHE HAS A GUN!
IT DOESN'T MATTER.
JUST DON'T ATTACK HER.
YES, SIR...
!!
BLAM
BLAM
BLAM
BLAM
...
WOW.
YOU MUST BE ONE OF US. WELL, NO SURPRISE FROM ONE OF BENJAMIN'S MEN.

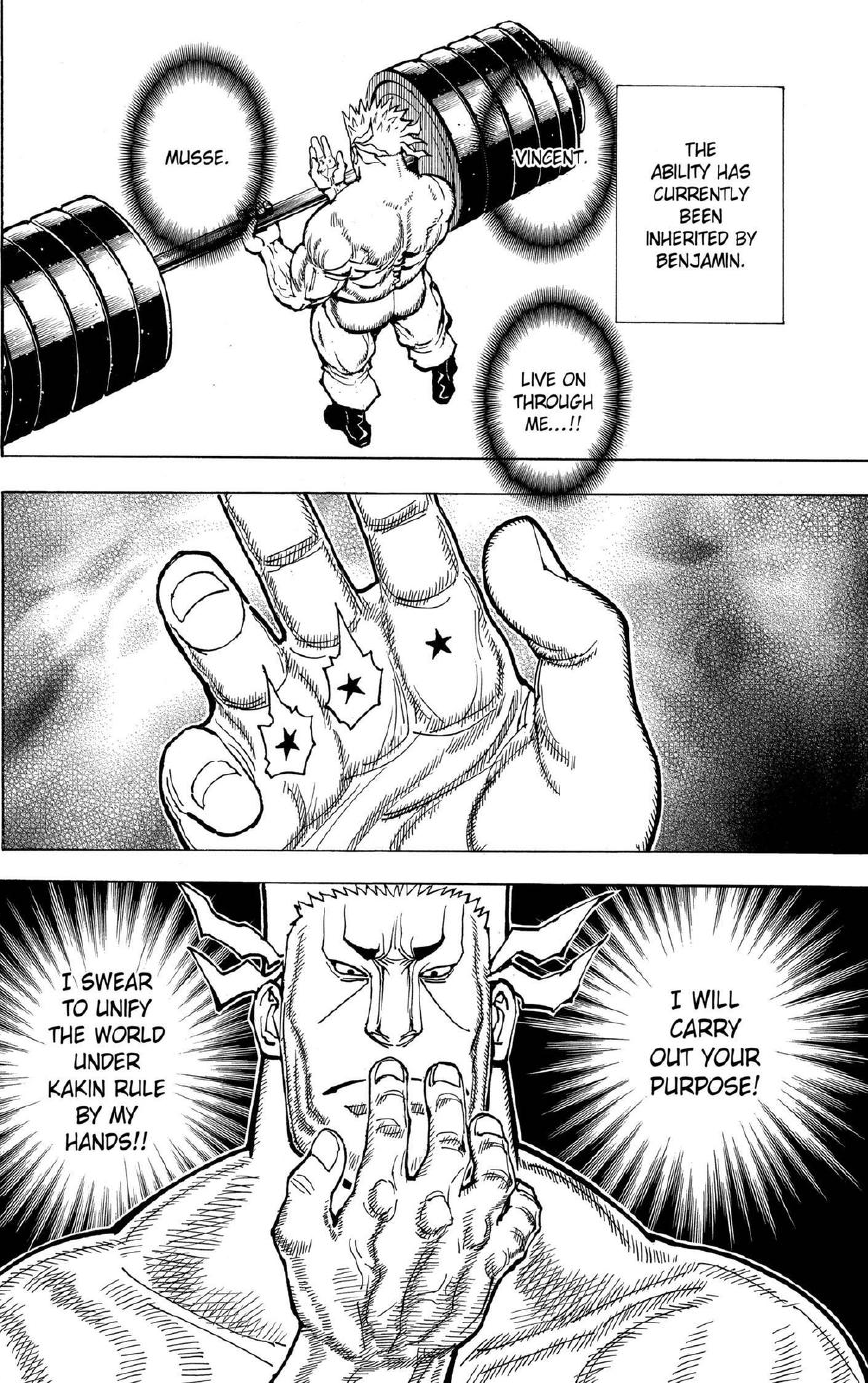

SWF
GOOD REACTION. I AIMED **BETWEEN** YOUR EYES.
YOU WANT TO SAY SOMETHING?
GO AHEAD. SHOOT.
HEH HEH.
I'M A LUCKY GUY.
SOMETHING ELSE TO LOOK FORWARD TO...!
RRRMMM

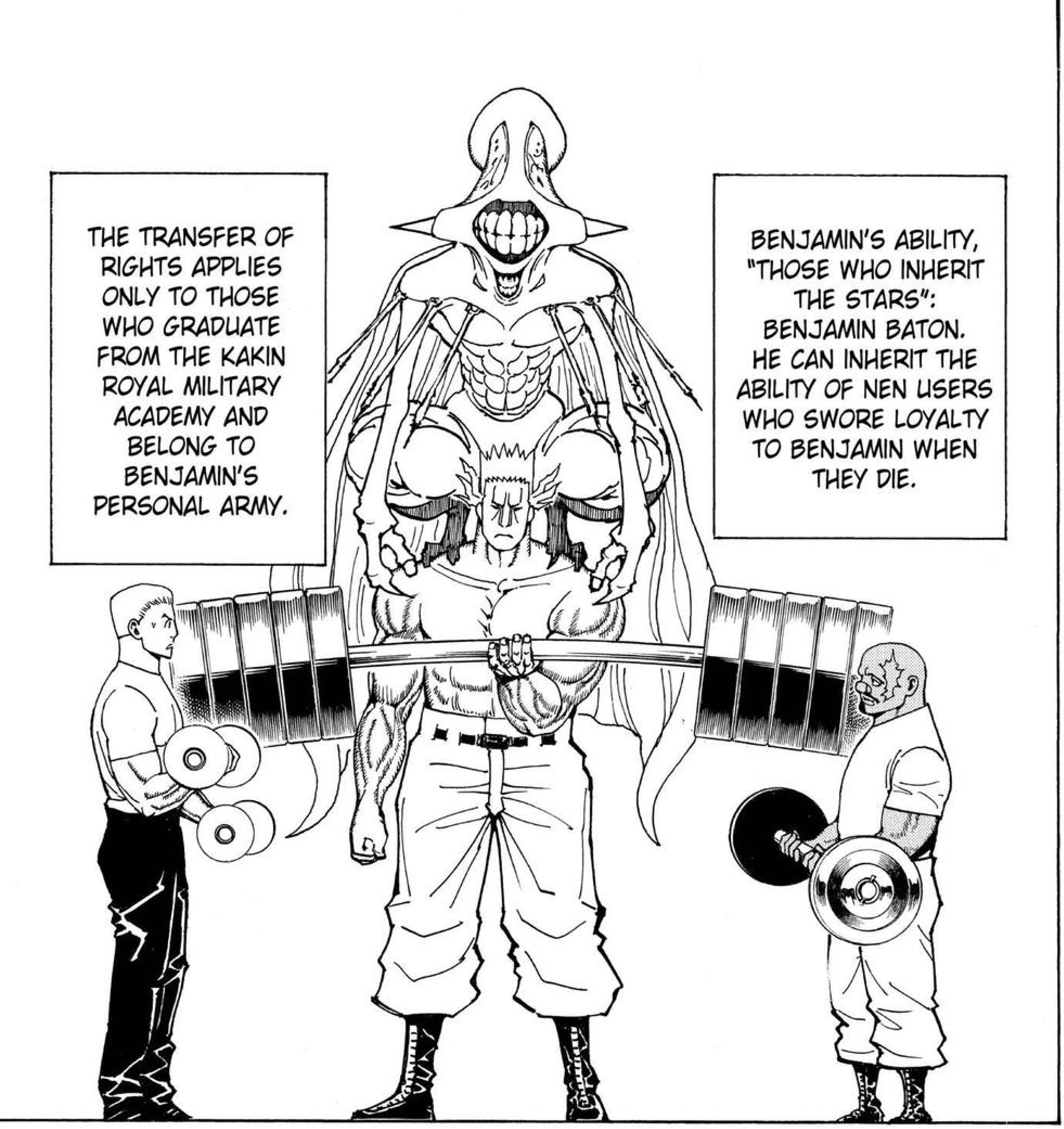

YOU CAME ALONE? I'LL COMMEND YOUR NERVE AT LEAST.
IT'S STILL THE AFTERNOON OF THE SECOND DAY.
I KNEW YOU WERE IMPATIENT, BUT THIS IS RIDICULOUS.
HUH?
I ONLY FOLLOWED MY ATTEMPTED ASSASSIN HERE.
HAND HIM OVER NOW.
I'M NOT PLAYING ALONG WITH YOUR CHARADE.
ARREST HER.
BLAM BLAM BLAM
BLAM BLAM BLAM
VMM
CLIK CLIK
...

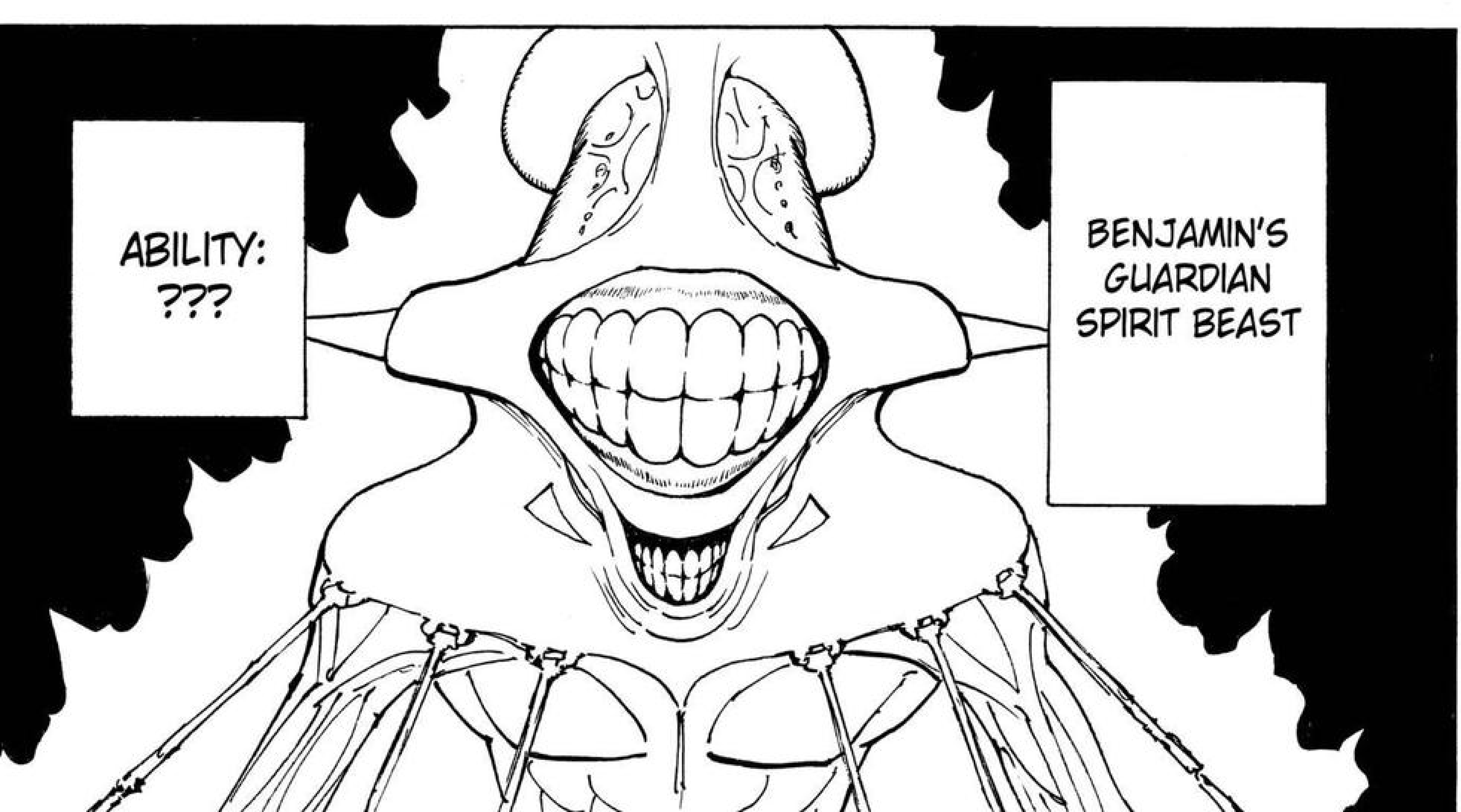

WHAT'S THE MATTER?! ATTACK ME!
YOU COWARD!
GET HER!
STOP.
LEAVE IT TO ME.
GET HER!
CHK
KRAK
PRINCE CAMILLA, PLEASE DON'T MAKE A FUSS LIKE THAT.
I'LL HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO USE FORCE, Y'KNOW.

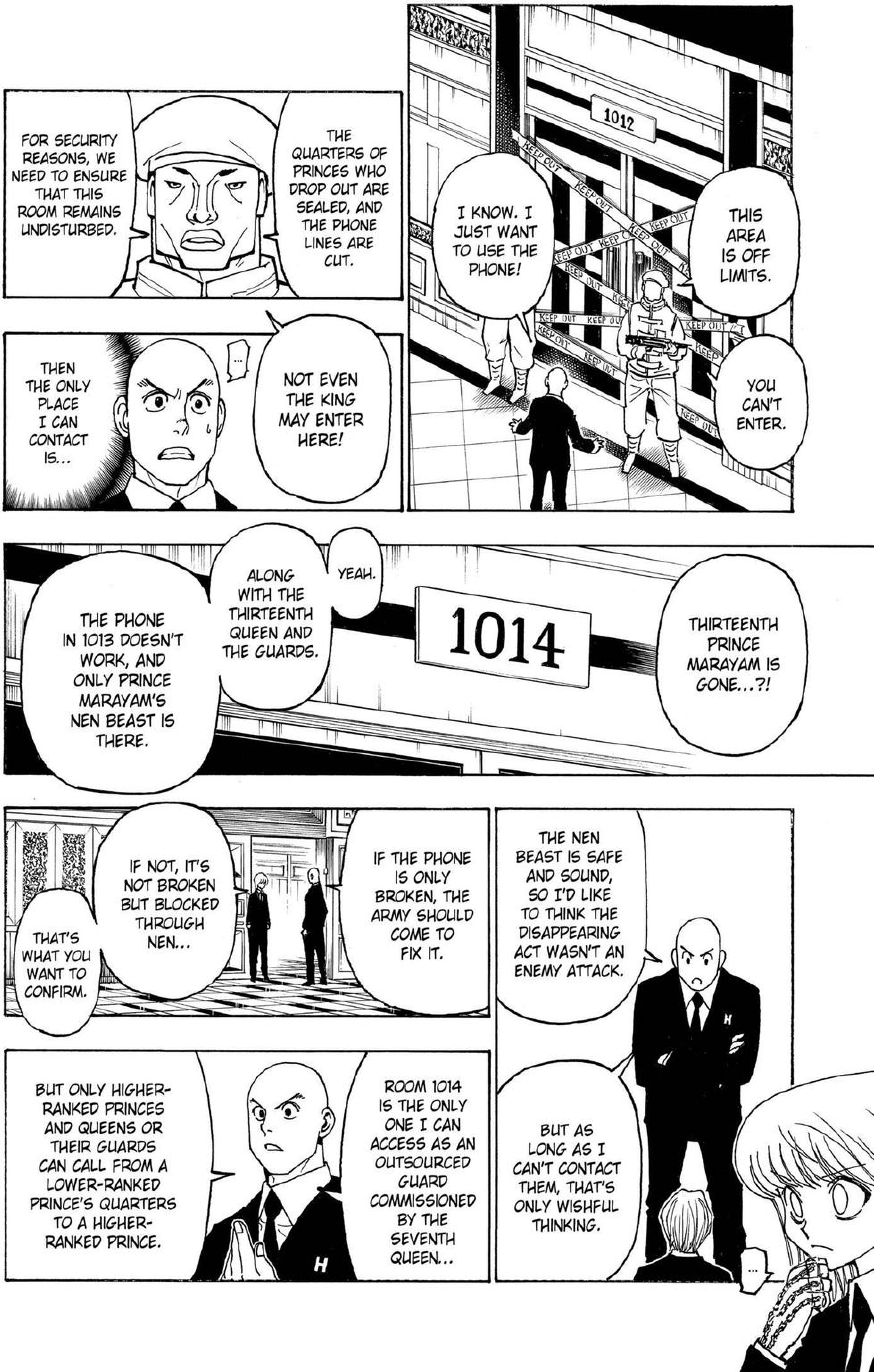

RMMM
…
I'LL KILL YOU…
…AND YOUR FAMILY.
MMM
YOUR ENTIRE CLAN.
AFTER I MAKE SURE TO INFLICT UNIMAGINABLE SUFFERING!
FAMILY, HUH? DON'T HAVE ANY.
PRINCE BENJAMIN IS MY FAMILY.
KLANNNG G
YOU'RE A FIRST-CLASS CRIMINAL MA'AM!

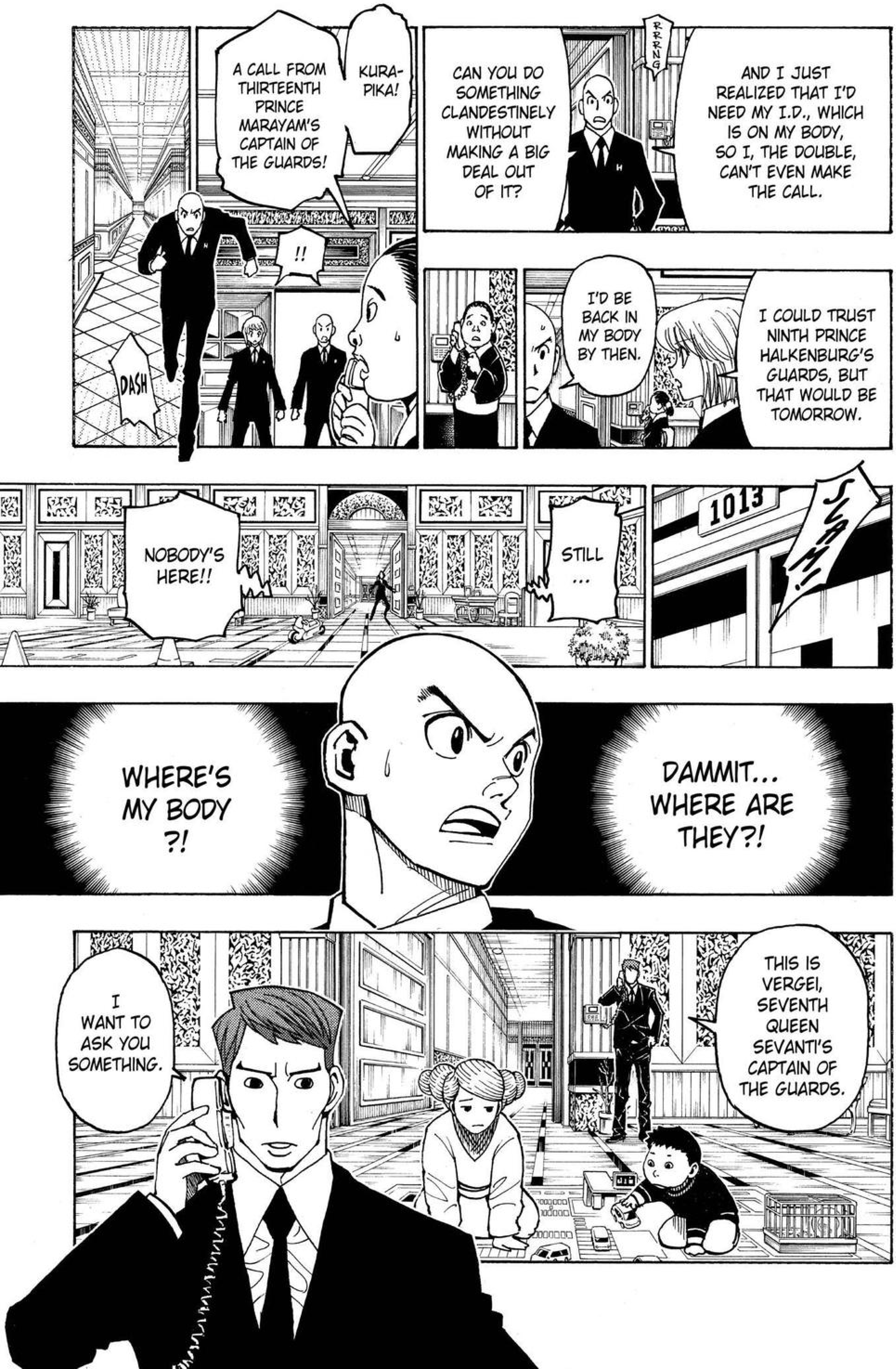

LIKE A MOTH TO A FLAME!
BUT WE DON'T KNOW WHAT HER GUARDIAN SPIRIT BEAST CAN DO, AND SHE'LL NEED TO BE WATCHED BY A NEN USER.
SHALL WE CALL BACK SOMEONE WHO'S WATCHING ANOTHER PRINCE?
OR LEAVE THE FOURTEENTH PRINCE TO BABIMYNA, AND I COULD…
NOT TO WORRY… MUSSE FULFILLED HIS DUTY.
CAMILLA ALREADY HAS A BIRD ON HER.
MUSSE'S ABILITY, SECRET WINDOW, USES THREE DIFFERENT BIRDS AS SPIES.
THE OWL, ACTIVATED BY TOUCHING THE TARGET, CAN ONLY BE SEEN BY THE USER. IT TELEPATHICALLY TRANSMITS EVERYTHING THE TARGET SAYS AND DOES.


THE ABILITY HAS CURRENTLY BEEN INHERITED BY BENJAMIN.
VINCENT.
MUSSE.
LIVE ON THROUGH ME...!!
I WILL CARRY OUT YOUR PURPOSE!
I SWEAR TO UNIFY THE WORLD UNDER KAKIN RULE BY MY HANDS!!

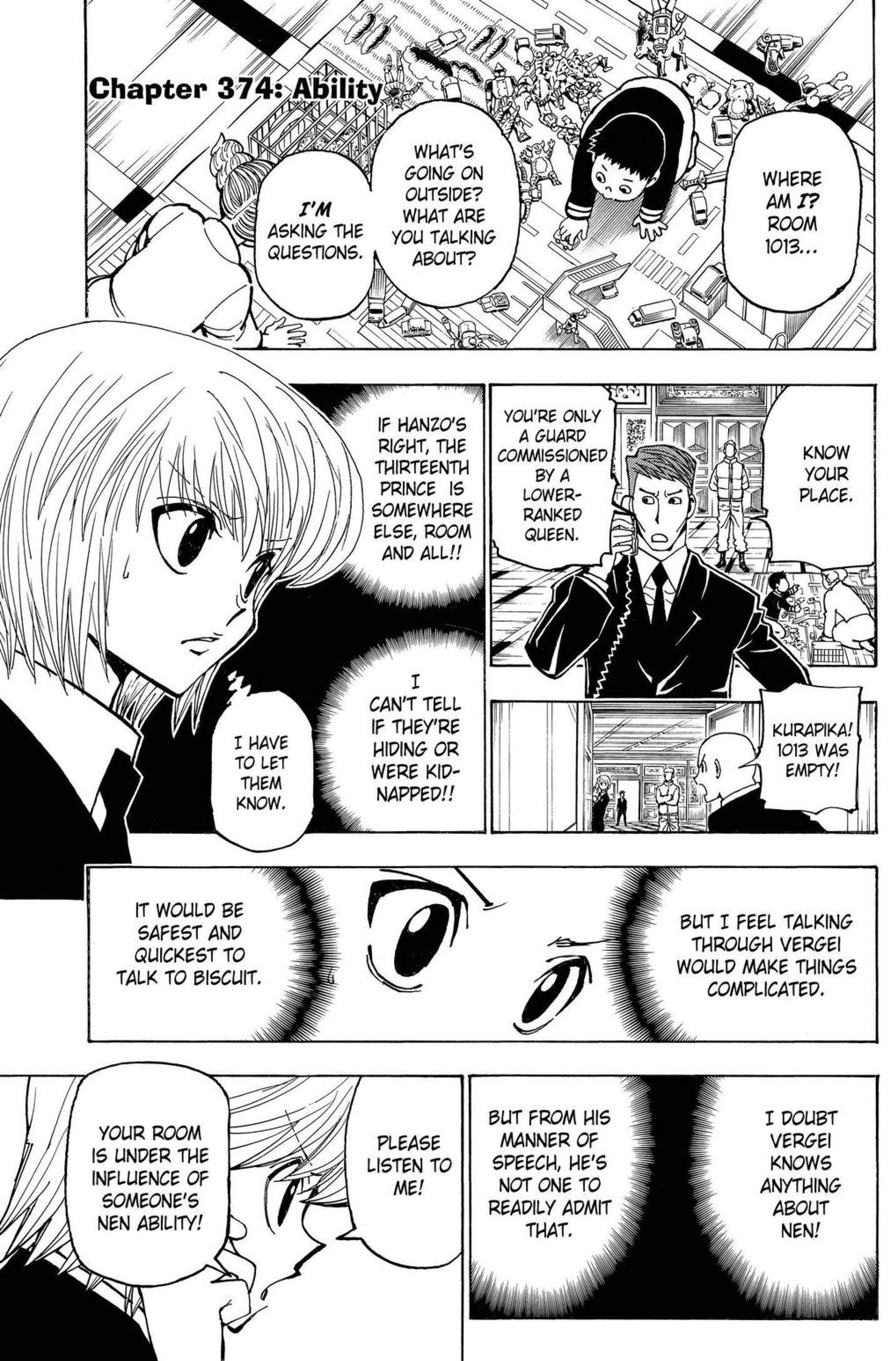

BENJAMIN'S ABILITY, "THOSE WHO INHERIT THE STARS": BENJAMIN BATON. HE CAN INHERIT THE ABILITY OF NEN USERS WHO SWORE LOYALTY TO BENJAMIN WHEN THEY DIE.
THE TRANSFER OF RIGHTS APPLIES ONLY TO THOSE WHO GRADUATE FROM THE KAKIN ROYAL MILITARY ACADEMY AND BELONG TO BENJAMIN'S PERSONAL ARMY.

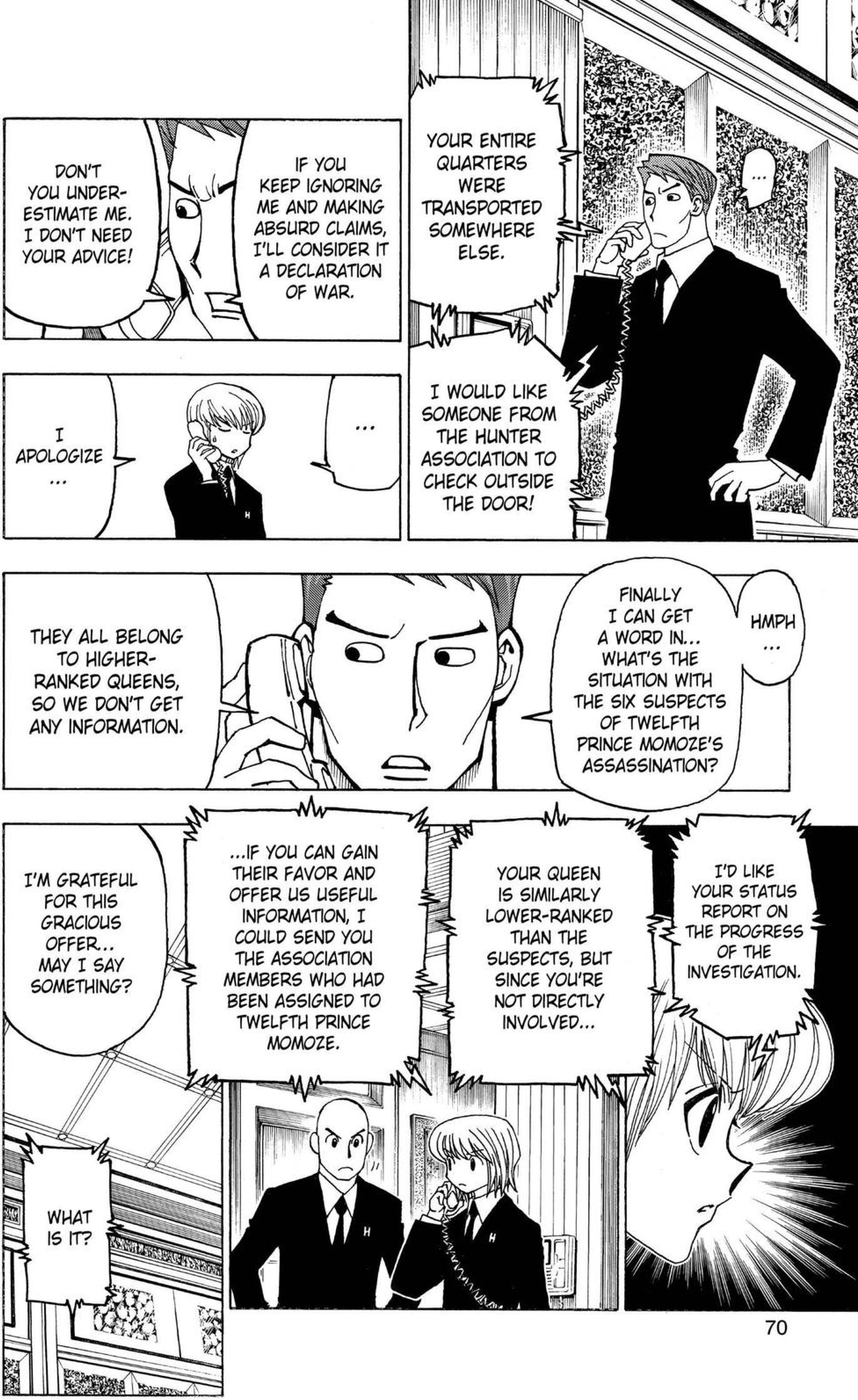

BENJAMIN'S GUARDIAN SPIRIT BEAST
ABILITY: ???

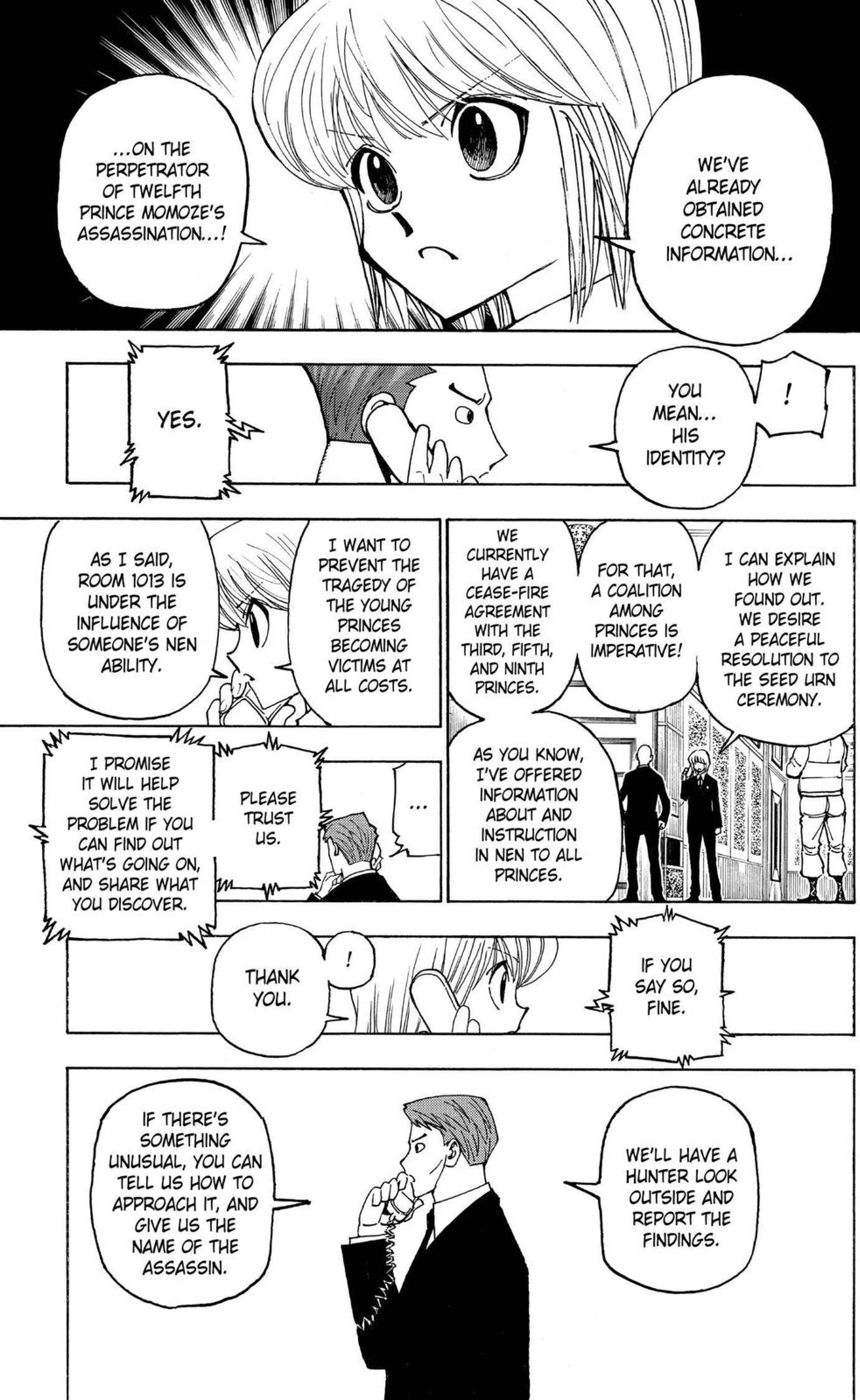

1012
KEEP OUT
THIS AREA IS OFF LIMITS.
YOU CAN'T ENTER.
I KNOW. I JUST WANT TO USE THE PHONE!
THE QUARTERS OF PRINCES WHO DROP OUT ARE SEALED, AND THE PHONE LINES ARE CUT.
FOR SECURITY REASONS, WE NEED TO ENSURE THAT THIS ROOM REMAINS UNDISTURBED.
NOT EVEN THE KING MAY ENTER HERE!
...
THEN THE ONLY PLACE I CAN CONTACT IS...
1014
THIRTEENTH PRINCE MARAYAM IS GONE...?!
YEAH.
ALONG WITH THE THIRTEENTH QUEEN AND THE GUARDS.
THE PHONE IN 1013 DOESN'T WORK, AND ONLY PRINCE MARAYAM'S NEN BEAST IS THERE.
THE NEN BEAST IS SAFE AND SOUND, SO I'D LIKE TO THINK THE DISAPPEARING ACT WASN'T AN ENEMY ATTACK.
IF THE PHONE IS ONLY BROKEN, THE ARMY SHOULD COME TO FIX IT.
IF NOT, IT'S NOT BROKEN BUT BLOCKED THROUGH NEN...
THAT'S WHAT YOU WANT TO CONFIRM.
ROOM 1014 IS THE ONLY ONE I CAN ACCESS AS AN OUTSOURCED GUARD COMMISSIONED BY THE SEVENTH QUEEN...
BUT ONLY HIGHER-RANKED PRINCES AND QUEENS OR THEIR GUARDS CAN CALL FROM A LOWER-RANKED PRINCE'S QUARTERS TO A HIGHER-RANKED PRINCE.
BUT AS LONG AS I CAN'T CONTACT THEM, THAT'S ONLY WISHFUL THINKING.
...

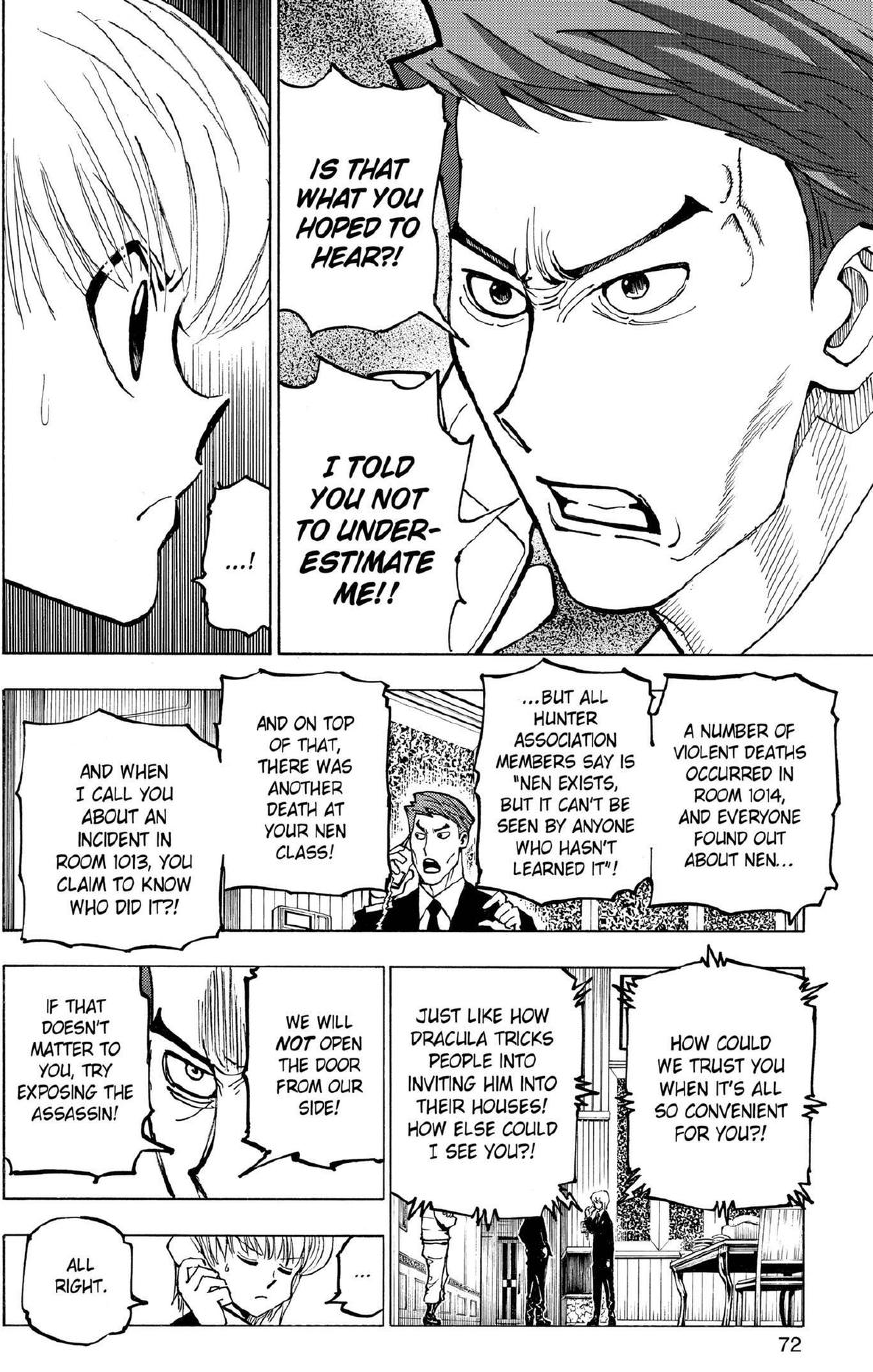

RRRNG
AND I JUST REALIZED THAT I'D NEED MY I.D., WHICH IS ON MY BODY, SO I, THE DOUBLE, CAN'T EVEN MAKE THE CALL.
CAN YOU DO SOMETHING CLANDESTINELY WITHOUT MAKING A BIG DEAL OUT OF IT?
I COULD TRUST NINTH PRINCE HALKENBURG'S GUARDS, BUT THAT WOULD BE TOMORROW.
I'D BE BACK IN MY BODY BY THEN.
KURA-PIKA!
A CALL FROM THIRTEENTH PRINCE MARAYAM'S CAPTAIN OF THE GUARDS!
!!
DASH
SLAM!
1013
STILL ...
NOBODY'S HERE!!
DAMMIT... WHERE ARE THEY?!
WHERE'S MY BODY ?!
THIS IS VERGEI, SEVENTH QUEEN SEVANTI'S CAPTAIN OF THE GUARDS.
I WANT TO ASK YOU SOMETHING.

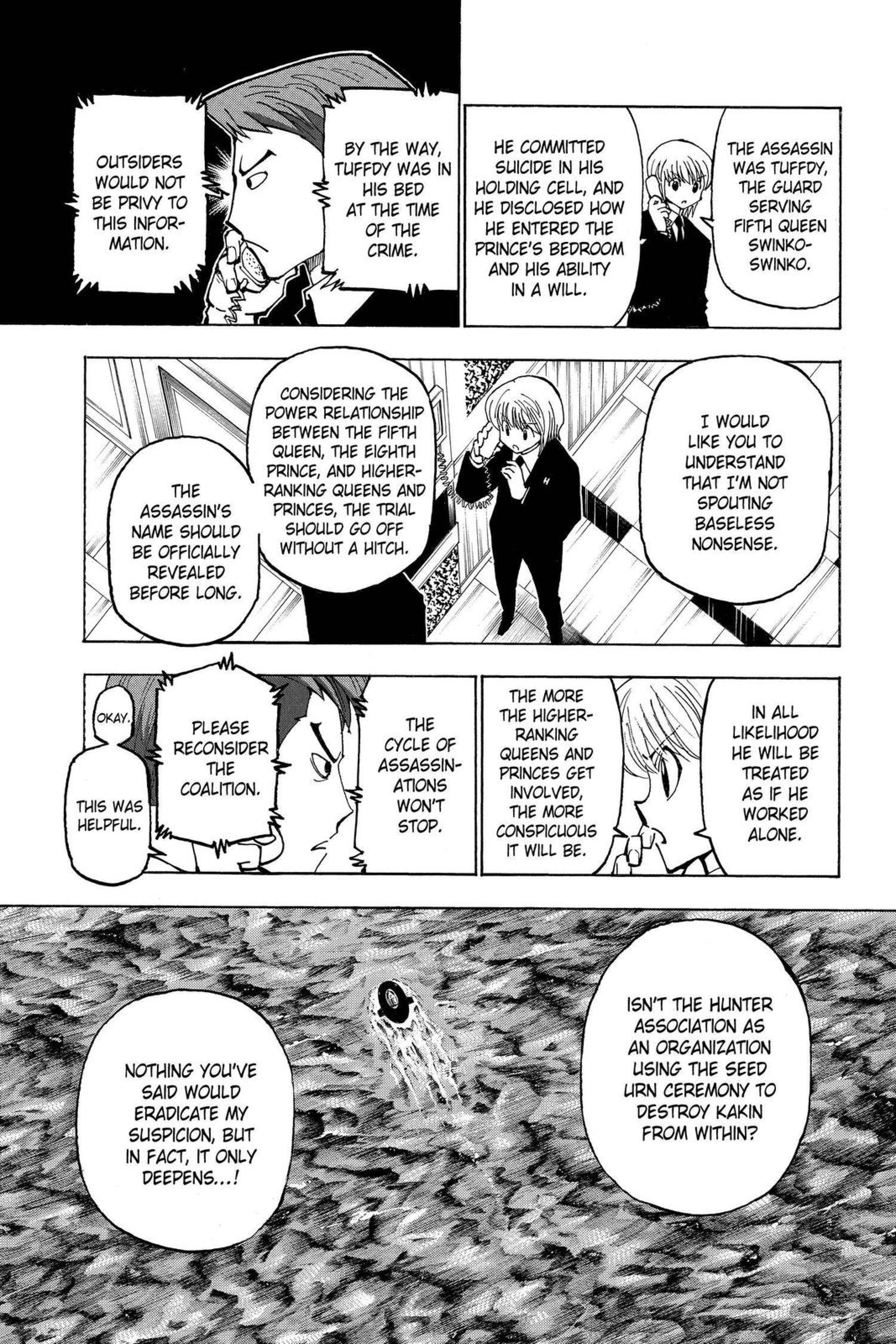
Chapter 374: Ability

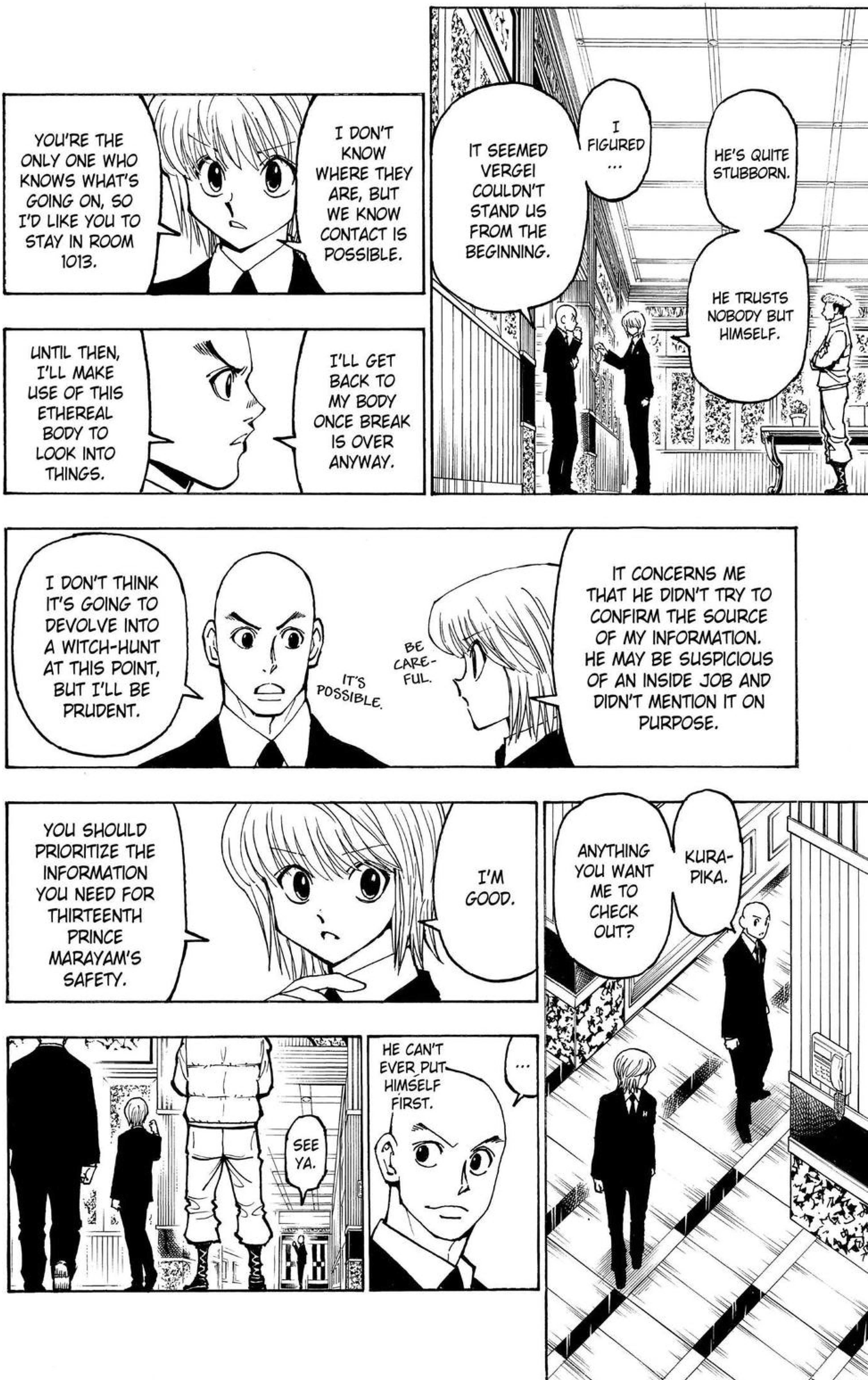

WHERE AM *I*? ROOM 1013…
WHAT'S GOING ON OUTSIDE? WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
I'M ASKING THE QUESTIONS.
KNOW YOUR PLACE.
YOU'RE ONLY A GUARD COMMISSIONED BY A LOWER-RANKED QUEEN.
IF HANZO'S RIGHT, THE THIRTEENTH PRINCE IS SOMEWHERE ELSE, ROOM AND ALL!!
KURAPIKA! 1013 WAS EMPTY!
I CAN'T TELL IF THEY'RE HIDING OR WERE KIDNAPPED!!
I HAVE TO LET THEM KNOW.
IT WOULD BE SAFEST AND QUICKEST TO TALK TO BISCUIT.
BUT I FEEL TALKING THROUGH VERGEI WOULD MAKE THINGS COMPLICATED.
I DOUBT VERGEI KNOWS ANYTHING ABOUT NEN!
BUT FROM HIS MANNER OF SPEECH, HE'S NOT ONE TO READILY ADMIT THAT.
PLEASE LISTEN TO ME!
YOUR ROOM IS UNDER THE INFLUENCE OF SOMEONE'S NEN ABILITY!

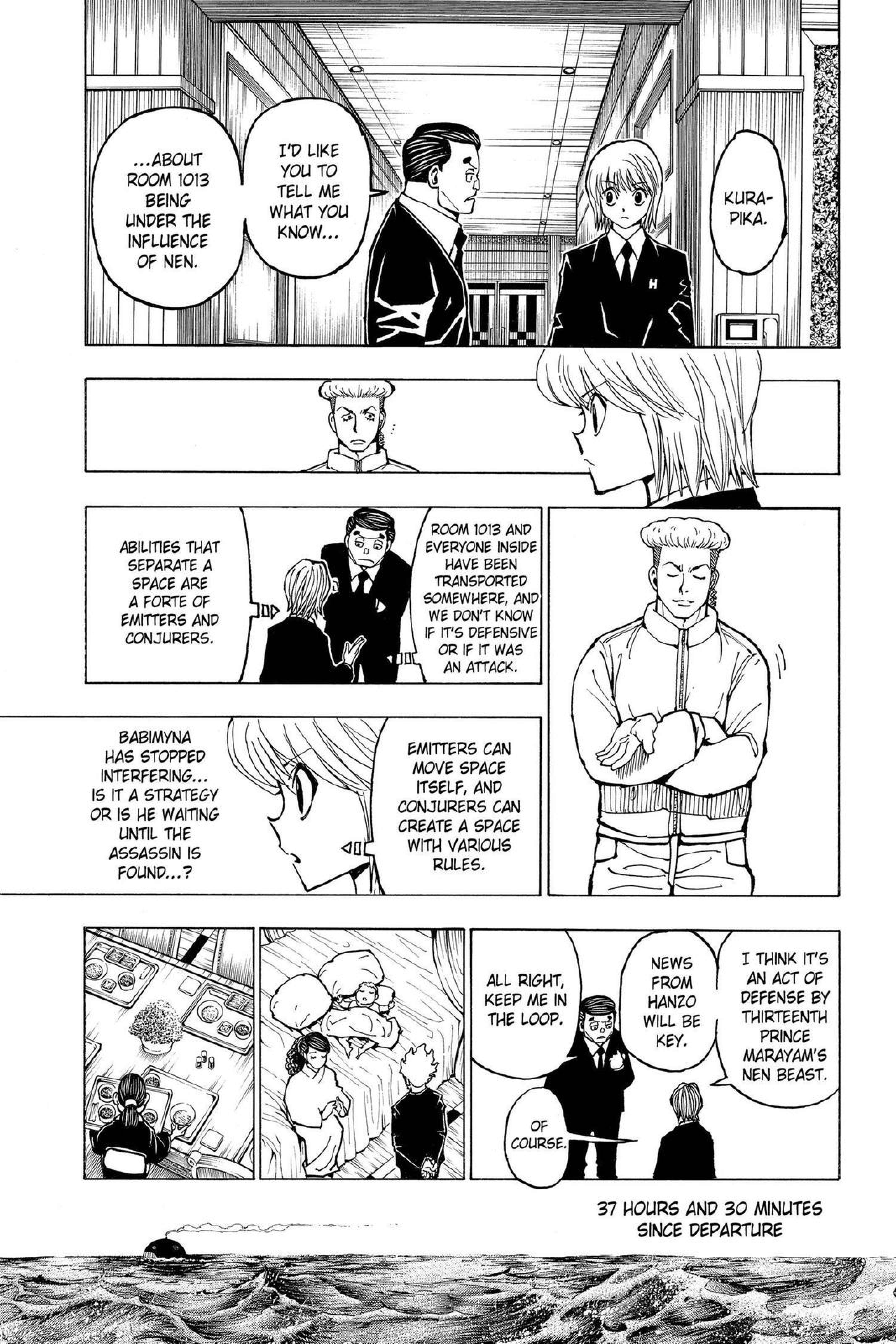

...
YOUR ENTIRE QUARTERS WERE TRANSPORTED SOMEWHERE ELSE.
I WOULD LIKE SOMEONE FROM THE HUNTER ASSOCIATION TO CHECK OUTSIDE THE DOOR!
IF YOU KEEP IGNORING ME AND MAKING ABSURD CLAIMS, I'LL CONSIDER IT A DECLARATION OF WAR.
DON'T YOU UNDERESTIMATE ME. I DON'T NEED YOUR ADVICE!
...
I APOLOGIZE...
HMPH...
FINALLY I CAN GET A WORD IN... WHAT'S THE SITUATION WITH THE SIX SUSPECTS OF TWELFTH PRINCE MOMOZE'S ASSASSINATION?
THEY ALL BELONG TO HIGHER-RANKED QUEENS, SO WE DON'T GET ANY INFORMATION.
I'D LIKE YOUR STATUS REPORT ON THE PROGRESS OF THE INVESTIGATION.
YOUR QUEEN IS SIMILARLY LOWER-RANKED THAN THE SUSPECTS, BUT SINCE YOU'RE NOT DIRECTLY INVOLVED...
...IF YOU CAN GAIN THEIR FAVOR AND OFFER US USEFUL INFORMATION, I COULD SEND YOU THE ASSOCIATION MEMBERS WHO HAD BEEN ASSIGNED TO TWELFTH PRINCE MOMOZE.
I'M GRATEFUL FOR THIS GRACIOUS OFFER... MAY I SAY SOMETHING?
WHAT IS IT?

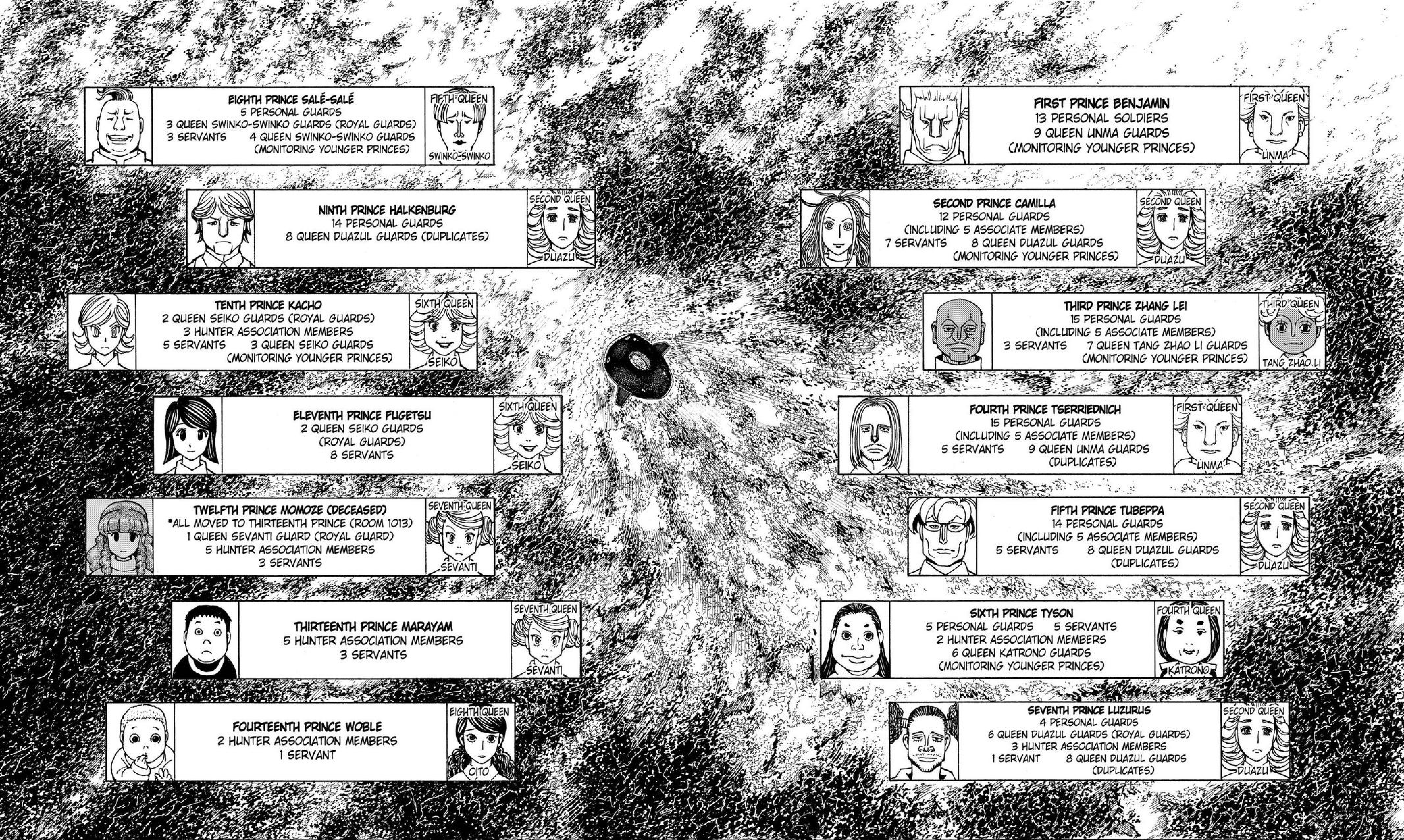

WE'VE ALREADY OBTAINED CONCRETE INFORMATION...
...ON THE PERPETRATOR OF TWELFTH PRINCE MOMOZE'S ASSASSINATION...!
!
YOU MEAN... HIS IDENTITY?
YES.
I CAN EXPLAIN HOW WE FOUND OUT. WE DESIRE A PEACEFUL RESOLUTION TO THE SEED URN CEREMONY.
FOR THAT, A COALITION AMONG PRINCES IS IMPERATIVE!
WE CURRENTLY HAVE A CEASE-FIRE AGREEMENT WITH THE THIRD, FIFTH, AND NINTH PRINCES.
AS YOU KNOW, I'VE OFFERED INFORMATION ABOUT AND INSTRUCTION IN NEN TO ALL PRINCES.
I WANT TO PREVENT THE TRAGEDY OF THE YOUNG PRINCES BECOMING VICTIMS AT ALL COSTS.
AS I SAID, ROOM 1013 IS UNDER THE INFLUENCE OF SOMEONE'S NEN ABILITY.
...
PLEASE TRUST US.
I PROMISE IT WILL HELP SOLVE THE PROBLEM IF YOU CAN FIND OUT WHAT'S GOING ON, AND SHARE WHAT YOU DISCOVER.
IF YOU SAY SO, FINE.
!
THANK YOU.
WE'LL HAVE A HUNTER LOOK OUTSIDE AND REPORT THE FINDINGS.
IF THERE'S SOMETHING UNUSUAL, YOU CAN TELL US HOW TO APPROACH IT, AND GIVE US THE NAME OF THE ASSASSIN.


IS THAT WHAT YOU HOPED TO HEAR?!
I TOLD YOU NOT TO UNDERESTIMATE ME!!
...!
A NUMBER OF VIOLENT DEATHS OCCURRED IN ROOM 1014, AND EVERYONE FOUND OUT ABOUT NEN...
...BUT ALL HUNTER ASSOCIATION MEMBERS SAY IS "NEN EXISTS, BUT IT CAN'T BE SEEN BY ANYONE WHO HASN'T LEARNED IT"!
AND ON TOP OF THAT, THERE WAS ANOTHER DEATH AT YOUR NEN CLASS!
AND WHEN I CALL YOU ABOUT AN INCIDENT IN ROOM 1013, YOU CLAIM TO KNOW WHO DID IT?!
HOW COULD WE TRUST YOU WHEN IT'S ALL SO CONVENIENT FOR YOU?!
JUST LIKE HOW DRACULA TRICKS PEOPLE INTO INVITING HIM INTO THEIR HOUSES! HOW ELSE COULD I SEE YOU?!
WE WILL *NOT* OPEN THE DOOR FROM OUR SIDE!
IF THAT DOESN'T MATTER TO YOU, TRY EXPOSING THE ASSASSIN!
...
ALL RIGHT.


THE ASSASSIN WAS TUFFDY, THE GUARD SERVING FIFTH QUEEN SWINKO-SWINKO.
HE COMMITTED SUICIDE IN HIS HOLDING CELL, AND HE DISCLOSED HOW HE ENTERED THE PRINCE'S BEDROOM AND HIS ABILITY IN A WILL.
BY THE WAY, TUFFDY WAS IN HIS BED AT THE TIME OF THE CRIME.
OUTSIDERS WOULD NOT BE PRIVY TO THIS INFORMATION.
I WOULD LIKE YOU TO UNDERSTAND THAT I'M NOT SPOUTING BASELESS NONSENSE.
CONSIDERING THE POWER RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE FIFTH QUEEN, THE EIGHTH PRINCE, AND HIGHER-RANKING QUEENS AND PRINCES, THE TRIAL SHOULD GO OFF WITHOUT A HITCH.
THE ASSASSIN'S NAME SHOULD BE OFFICIALLY REVEALED BEFORE LONG.
IN ALL LIKELIHOOD HE WILL BE TREATED AS IF HE WORKED ALONE.
THE MORE THE HIGHER-RANKING QUEENS AND PRINCES GET INVOLVED, THE MORE CONSPICUOUS IT WILL BE.
THE CYCLE OF ASSASSINATIONS WON'T STOP.
PLEASE RECONSIDER THE COALITION.
OKAY.
THIS WAS HELPFUL.
ISN'T THE HUNTER ASSOCIATION AS AN ORGANIZATION USING THE SEED URN CEREMONY TO DESTROY KAKIN FROM WITHIN?
NOTHING YOU'VE SAID WOULD ERADICATE MY SUSPICION, BUT IN FACT, IT ONLY DEEPENS...!


HE'S QUITE STUBBORN.
HE TRUSTS NOBODY BUT HIMSELF.
I FIGURED ...
IT SEEMED VERGEI COULDN'T STAND US FROM THE BEGINNING.
I DON'T KNOW WHERE THEY ARE, BUT WE KNOW CONTACT IS POSSIBLE.
YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE WHO KNOWS WHAT'S GOING ON, SO I'D LIKE YOU TO STAY IN ROOM 1013.
I'LL GET BACK TO MY BODY ONCE BREAK IS OVER ANYWAY.
UNTIL THEN, I'LL MAKE USE OF THIS ETHEREAL BODY TO LOOK INTO THINGS.
IT CONCERNS ME THAT HE DIDN'T TRY TO CONFIRM THE SOURCE OF MY INFORMATION. HE MAY BE SUSPICIOUS OF AN INSIDE JOB AND DIDN'T MENTION IT ON PURPOSE.
BE CAREFUL.
IT'S POSSIBLE.
I DON'T THINK IT'S GOING TO DEVOLVE INTO A WITCH-HUNT AT THIS POINT, BUT I'LL BE PRUDENT.
KURAPIKA.
ANYTHING YOU WANT ME TO CHECK OUT?
I'M GOOD.
YOU SHOULD PRIORITIZE THE INFORMATION YOU NEED FOR THIRTEENTH PRINCE MARAYAM'S SAFETY.
...
HE CAN'T EVER PUT HIMSELF FIRST.
SEE YA.


KURAPIKA.
I'D LIKE YOU TO TELL ME WHAT YOU KNOW...
...ABOUT ROOM 1013 BEING UNDER THE INFLUENCE OF NEN.
ROOM 1013 AND EVERYONE INSIDE HAVE BEEN TRANSPORTED SOMEWHERE, AND WE DON'T KNOW IF IT'S DEFENSIVE OR IF IT WAS AN ATTACK.
ABILITIES THAT SEPARATE A SPACE ARE A FORTE OF EMITTERS AND CONJURERS.
EMITTERS CAN MOVE SPACE ITSELF, AND CONJURERS CAN CREATE A SPACE WITH VARIOUS RULES.
BABIMYNA HAS STOPPED INTERFERING... IS IT A STRATEGY OR IS HE WAITING UNTIL THE ASSASSIN IS FOUND...?
I THINK IT'S AN ACT OF DEFENSE BY THIRTEENTH PRINCE MARAYAM'S NEN BEAST.
NEWS FROM HANZO WILL BE KEY.
ALL RIGHT, KEEP ME IN THE LOOP.
OF COURSE.
37 HOURS AND 30 MINUTES SINCE DEPARTURE



FIRST PRINCE BENJAMIN
13 PERSONAL SOLDIERS
9 QUEEN UNMA GUARDS
(MONITORING YOUNGER PRINCES)
FIRST QUEEN
UNMA

SECOND PRINCE CAMILLA
12 PERSONAL GUARDS
(INCLUDING 5 ASSOCIATE MEMBERS)
7 SERVANTS 8 QUEEN DUAZUL GUARDS
(MONITORING YOUNGER PRINCES)
SECOND QUEEN
DUAZU

THIRD PRINCE ZHANG LEI
15 PERSONAL GUARDS
(INCLUDING 5 ASSOCIATE MEMBERS)
3 SERVANTS 7 QUEEN TANG ZHAO LI GUARDS
(MONITORING YOUNGER PRINCES)
THIRD QUEEN
TANG ZHAO LI

FOURTH PRINCE TSERRIEDNICH
15 PERSONAL GUARDS
(INCLUDING 5 ASSOCIATE MEMBERS)
5 SERVANTS 9 QUEEN UNMA GUARDS
(DUPLICATES)
FIRST QUEEN
UNMA

FIFTH PRINCE TUBEPPA
14 PERSONAL GUARDS
(INCLUDING 5 ASSOCIATE MEMBERS)
5 SERVANTS 8 QUEEN DUAZUL GUARDS
(DUPLICATES)
SECOND QUEEN
DUAZU

SIXTH PRINCE TYSON
5 PERSONAL GUARDS 5 SERVANTS
2 HUNTER ASSOCIATION MEMBERS
6 QUEEN KATRONO GUARDS
(MONITORING YOUNGER PRINCES)
FOURTH QUEEN
KATRONO

SEVENTH PRINCE LUZURUS
4 PERSONAL GUARDS
6 QUEEN DUAZUL GUARDS (ROYAL GUARDS)
3 HUNTER ASSOCIATION MEMBERS
1 SERVANT 8 QUEEN DUAZUL GUARDS
(DUPLICATES)
SECOND QUEEN
DUAZU

EIGHTH PRINCE SALÉ-SALÉ
5 PERSONAL GUARDS
3 QUEEN SWINKO-SWINKO GUARDS (ROYAL GUARDS)
3 SERVANTS 4 QUEEN SWINKO-SWINKO GUARDS
(MONITORING YOUNGER PRINCES)
FIFTH QUEEN
SWINKO-SWINKO

NINTH PRINCE HALKENBURG
14 PERSONAL GUARDS
8 QUEEN DUAZUL GUARDS (DUPLICATES)
SECOND QUEEN
DUAZU

TENTH PRINCE KACHO
2 QUEEN SEIKO GUARDS (ROYAL GUARDS)
3 HUNTER ASSOCIATION MEMBERS
5 SERVANTS 3 QUEEN SEIKO GUARDS
(MONITORING YOUNGER PRINCES)
SIXTH QUEEN
SEIKO

ELEVENTH PRINCE FUGETSU
2 QUEEN SEIKO GUARDS
(ROYAL GUARDS)
8 SERVANTS
SIXTH QUEEN
SEIKO

TWELFTH PRINCE MOMOZE (DECEASED)
*ALL MOVED TO THIRTEENTH PRINCE (ROOM 1013)
1 QUEEN SEVANTI GUARD (ROYAL GUARD)
5 HUNTER ASSOCIATION MEMBERS
3 SERVANTS
SEVENTH QUEEN
SEVANTI

THIRTEENTH PRINCE MARAYAM
5 HUNTER ASSOCIATION MEMBERS
3 SERVANTS
SEVENTH QUEEN
SEVANTI

FOURTEENTH PRINCE WOBLE
2 HUNTER ASSOCIATION MEMBERS
1 SERVANT
EIGHTH QUEEN
OITO

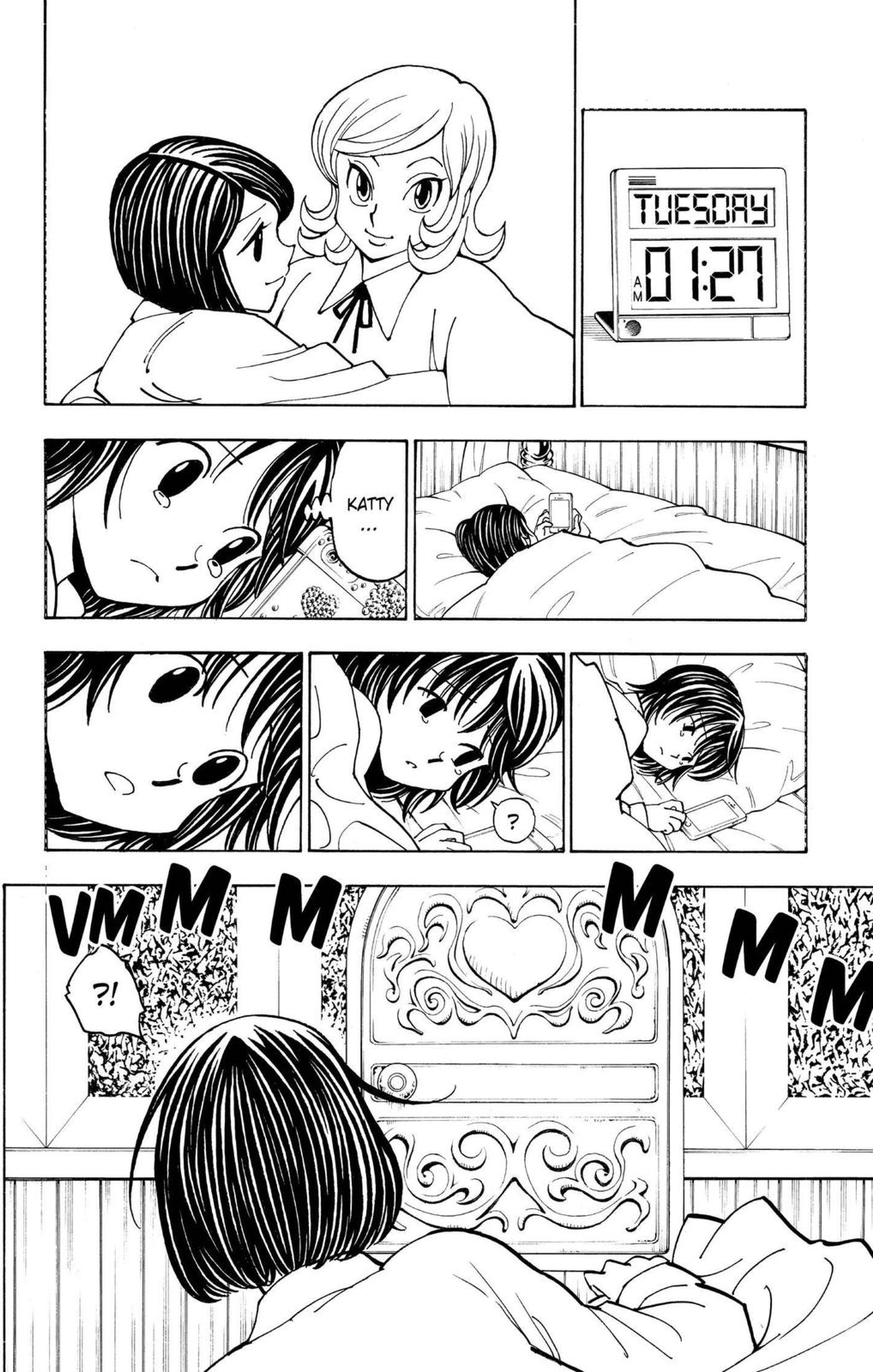
ASSOCIATION MEMBERS: EACH PRINCE'S GUARDS AND THE HUNTER ASSOCIATION COORDINATED TO GATHER PERSONNEL TO GUARD AREAS OUTSIDE RESIDENTIAL QUARTERS. THESE PERSONNEL WERE GIVEN TEMPORARY HUNTER ASSOCIATION MEMBER STATUS AS A MATTER OF CONVENIENCE. RULES HAVE BEEN IGNORED AND THEY FREELY ENTER QUARTERS.

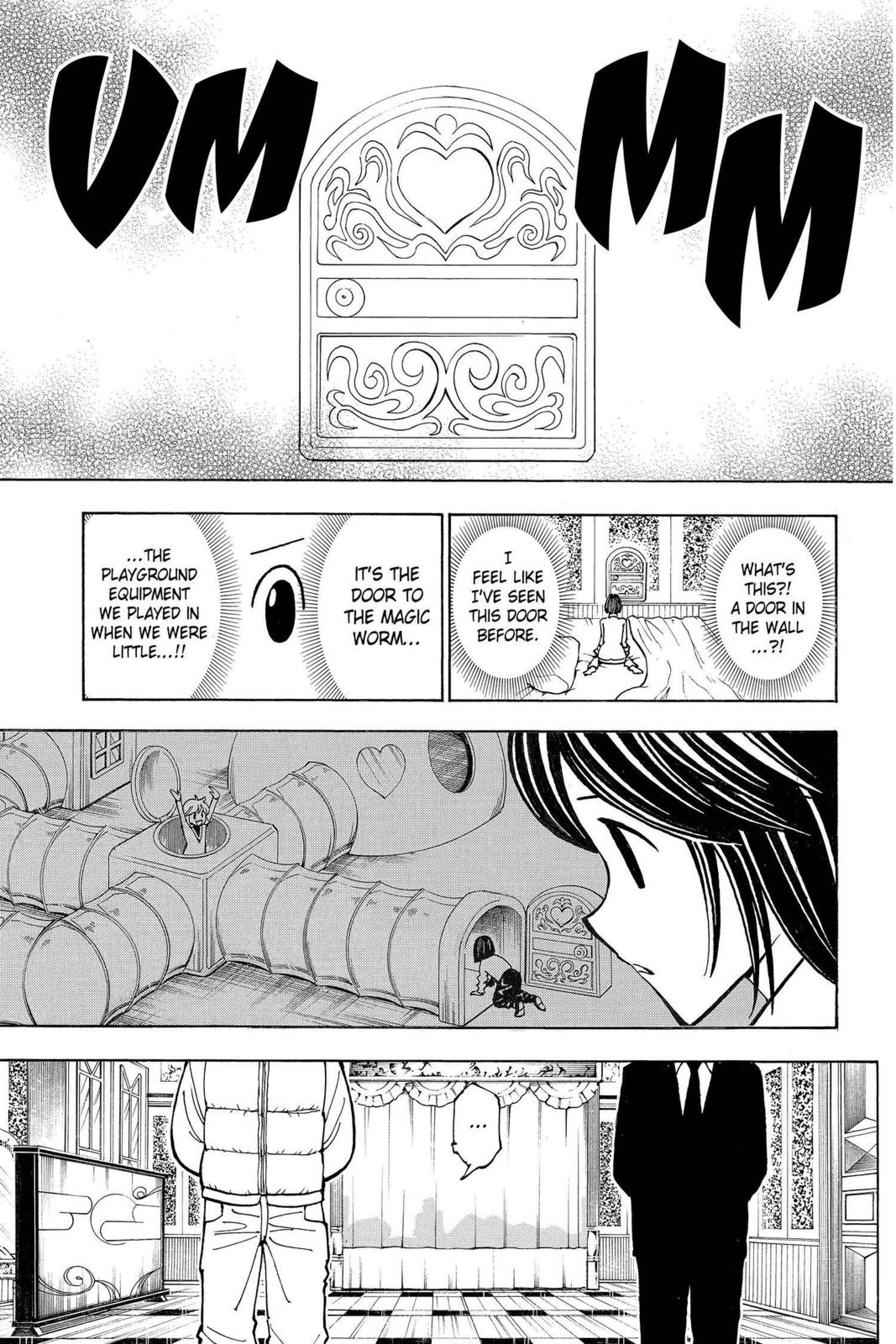
SERVANTS: SOME ALSO SERVE AS SOLDIERS, AND SOME ARE NONCOMBATANTS. THE MORE PERSONNEL A PRINCE REQUESTS, THE MORE FURNITURE, NECESSITIES AND LUGGAGE NEED TO FIT IN THEIR RESIDENCE, AND THERERFORE THE FEWER WEAPONS THEY CAN BRING. (THOSE WITH WEAPONS ARE SUPPLIED.)

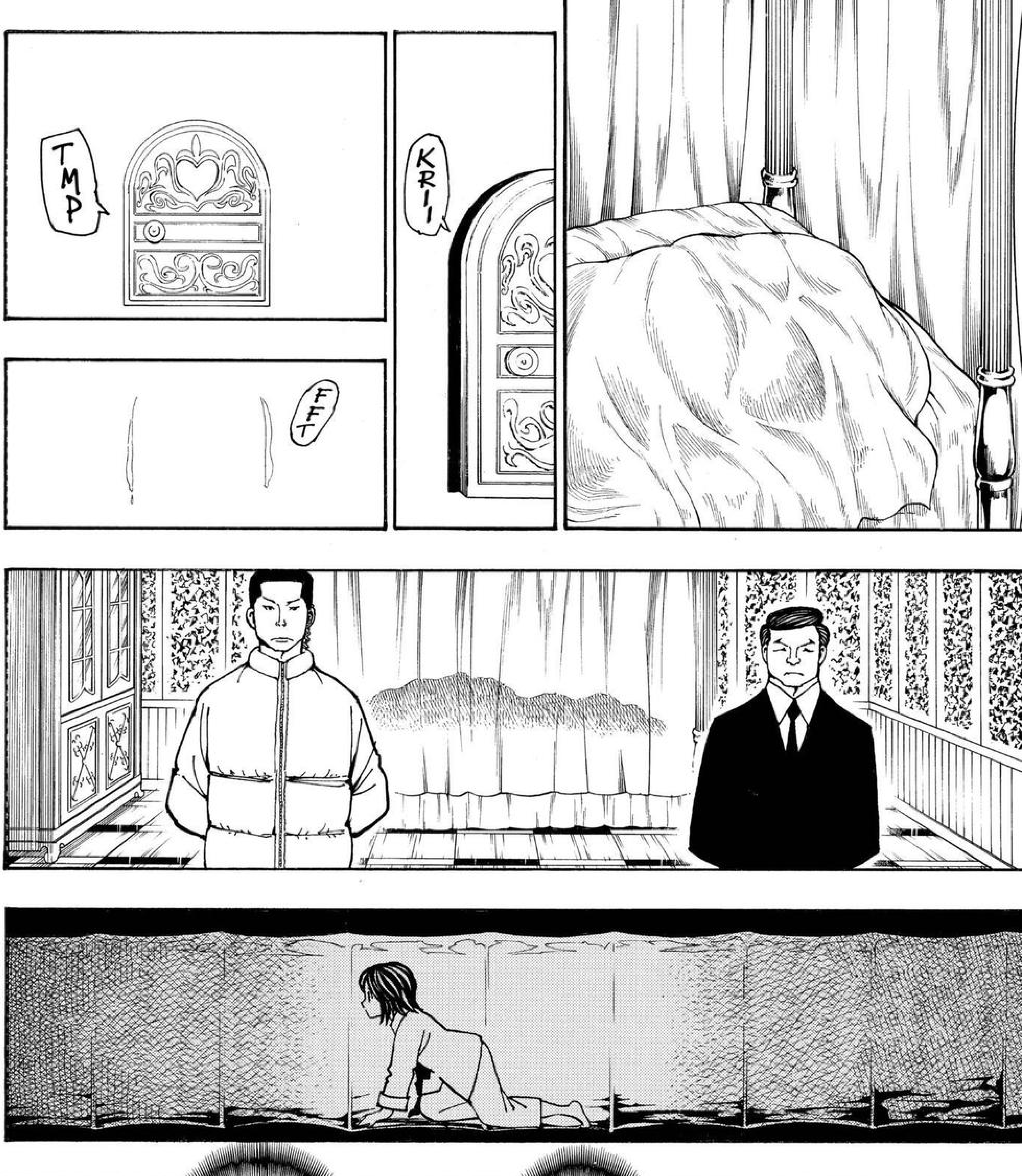
PERSONAL GUARDS: SOLDIERS EACH PRINCE ASSEMBLED THROUGH THEIR OWN CONNECTIONS. ONLY THE FIRST PRINCE'S GUARDS ALSO SERVE AS ROYAL ARMY OFFICERS. THE GUARDS OF THE OLDEST FIVE PRINCES HAVE BEEN TRAINING SINCE THEIR CHILDHOOD TO GIVE THEIR LIVES TO THE PRINCE, AND MORALE AND LOYALTY ARE HIGH.

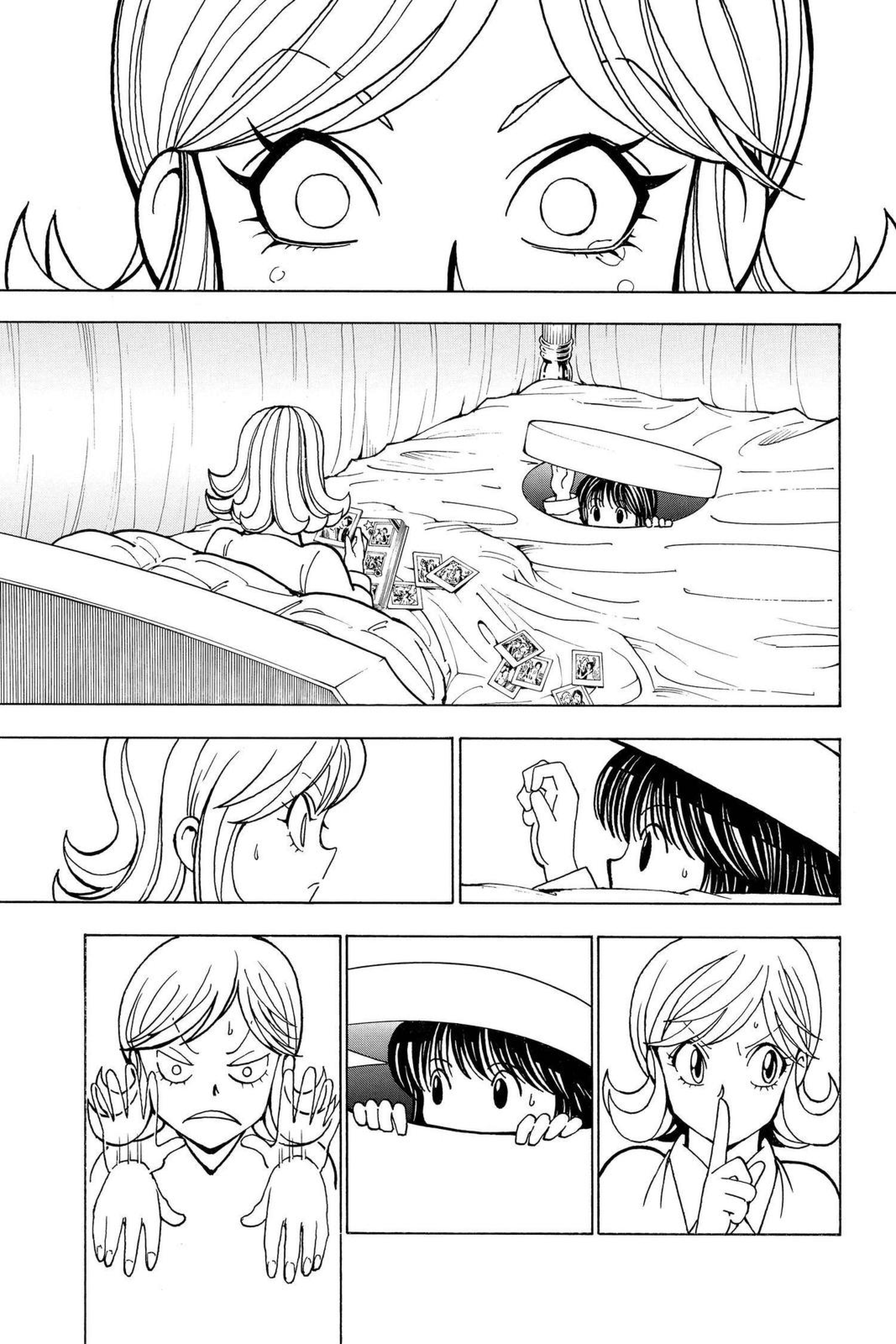
QUEEN'S GUARDS: ROYAL ARMY SOLDIERS ALLOTTED TO EACH QUEEN. EACH PRINCE'S GUARD HAS LITTLE SENSE OF CONNECTION TO THEM, BUT THEY ARE LOYAL TO THEIR QUEENS.

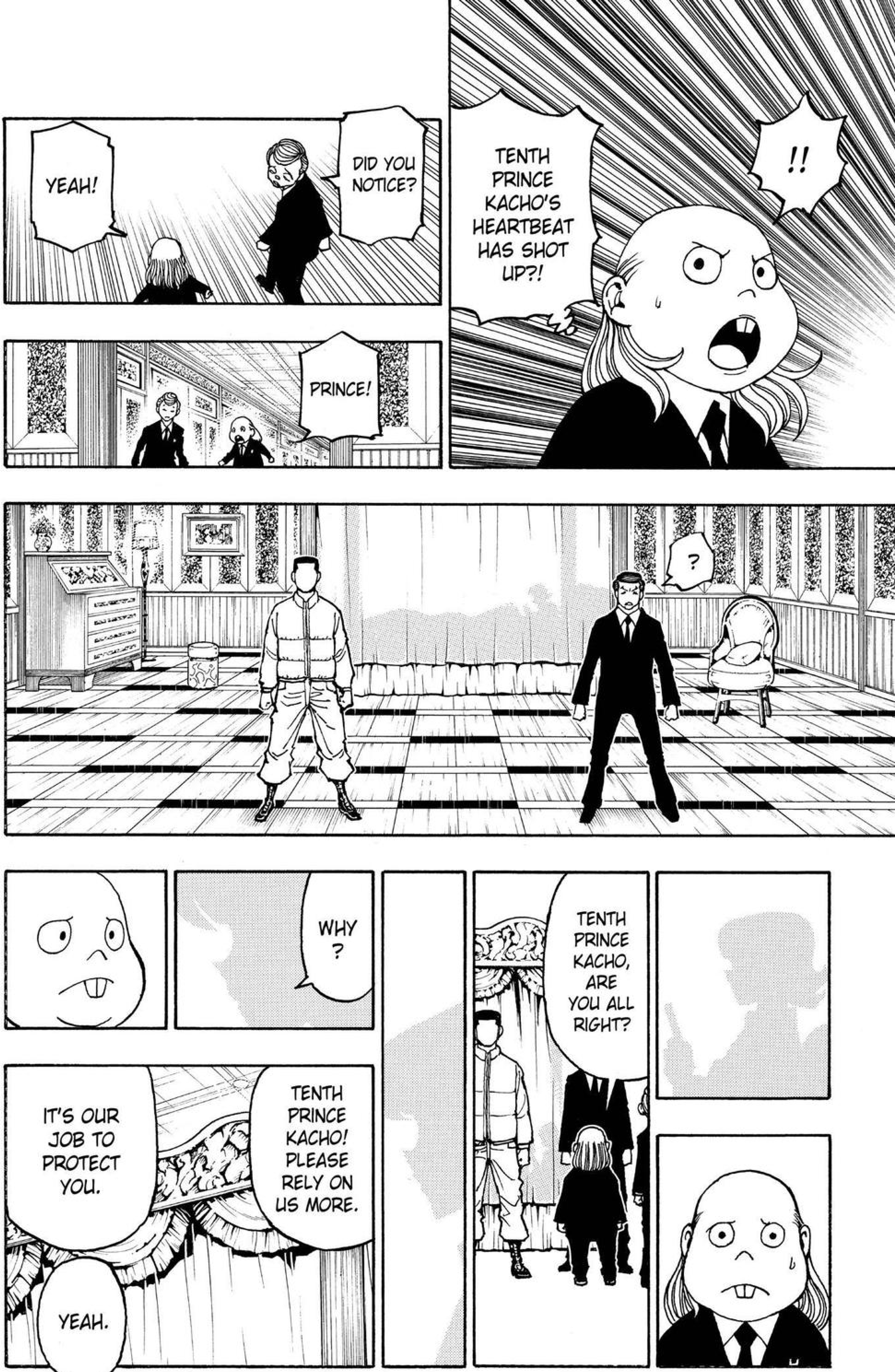
HUNTER ASSOCIATION MEMBERS: PROFESSIONAL HUNTERS HIRED AS BODYGUARDS BY EACH INDIVIDUAL PRINCE. EXCLUSIVELY DEFENSIVE, THEY DO NOT ASSIST ASSASSINATIONS EVEN BY REQUEST FROM THE CLIENT.

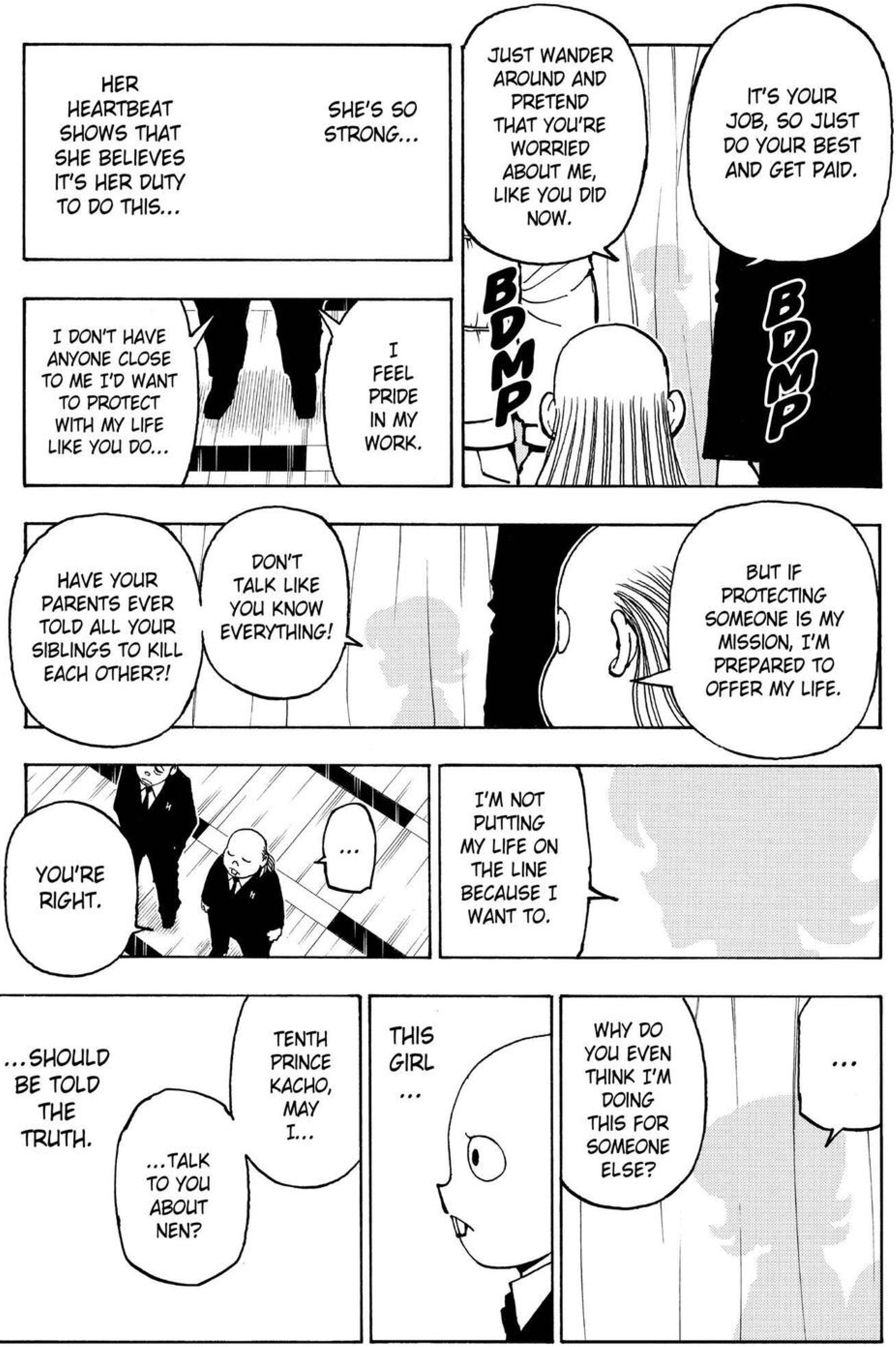

TUESDAY
AM 01:27
KATTY ...
?
?!
VMMMMMM

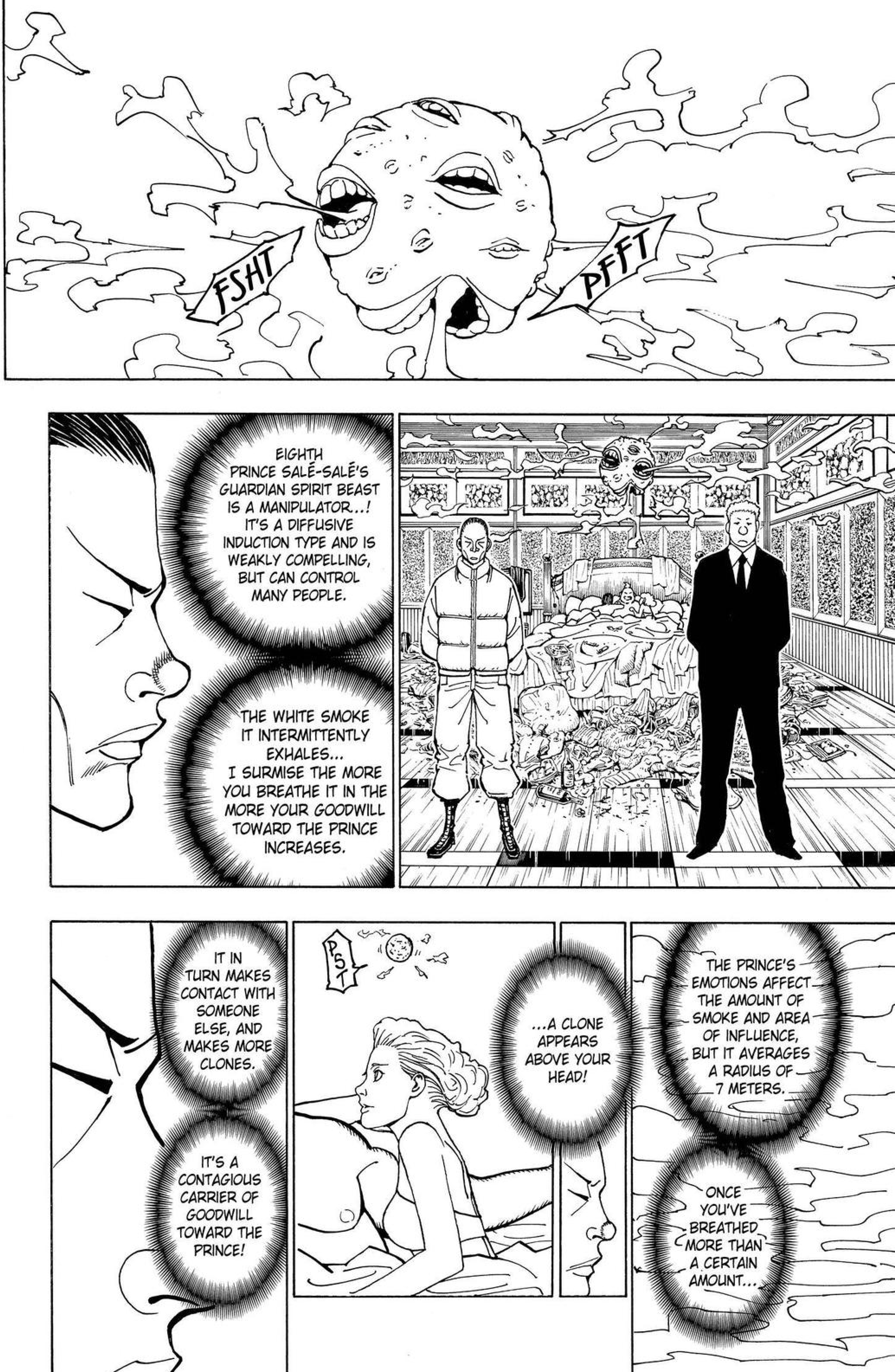

UMMM
WHAT'S THIS?! A DOOR IN THE WALL ...?!
I FEEL LIKE I'VE SEEN THIS DOOR BEFORE.
IT'S THE DOOR TO THE MAGIC WORM...
...THE PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT WE PLAYED IN WHEN WE WERE LITTLE...!!
...

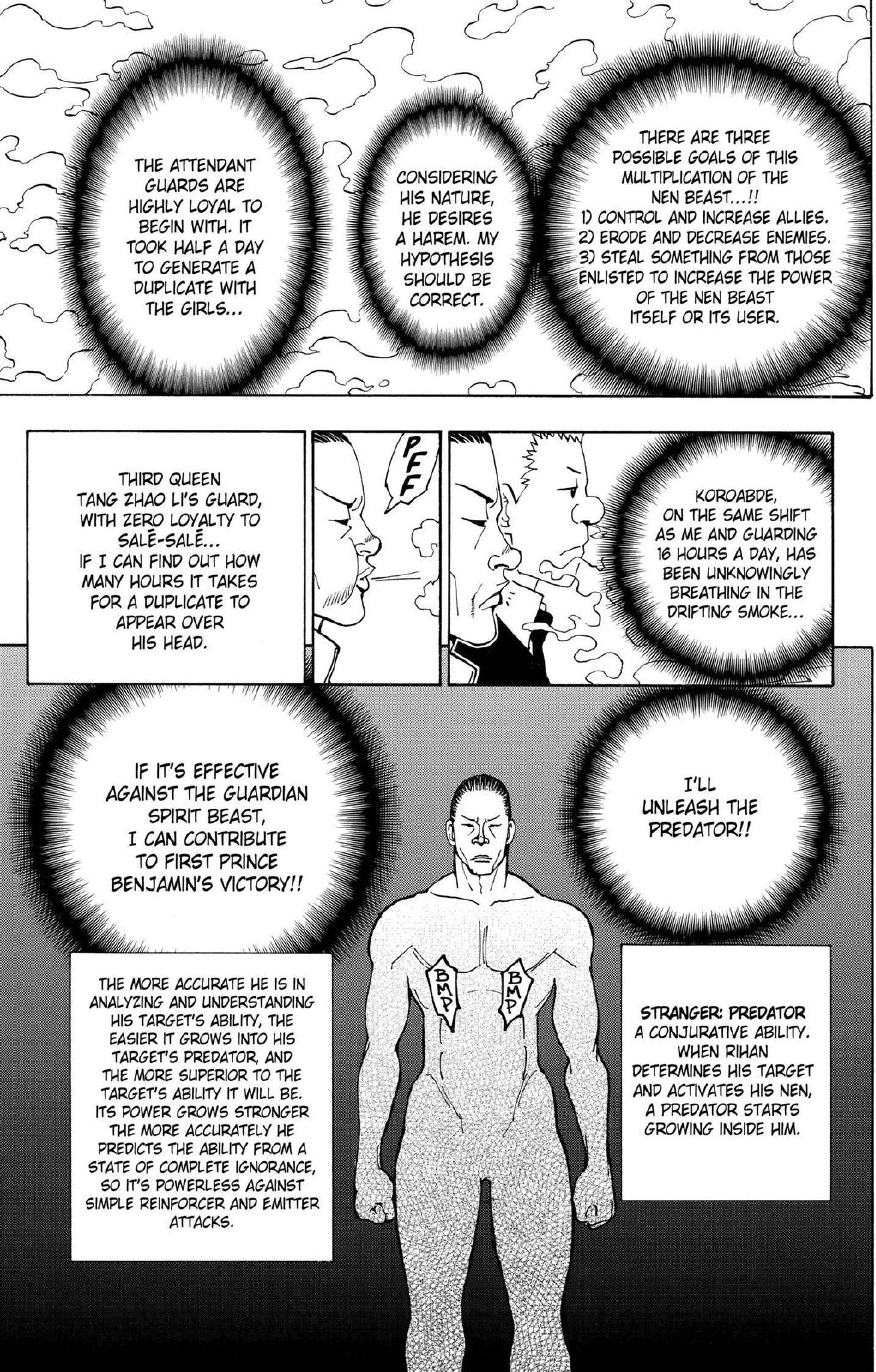

KRII
TMP
FFT
THAT'S RIGHT!!
A MAGIC TUNNEL!! BACK THEN WE PRETENDED…
…WE COULD GO ANYWHERE THROUGH HERE!!

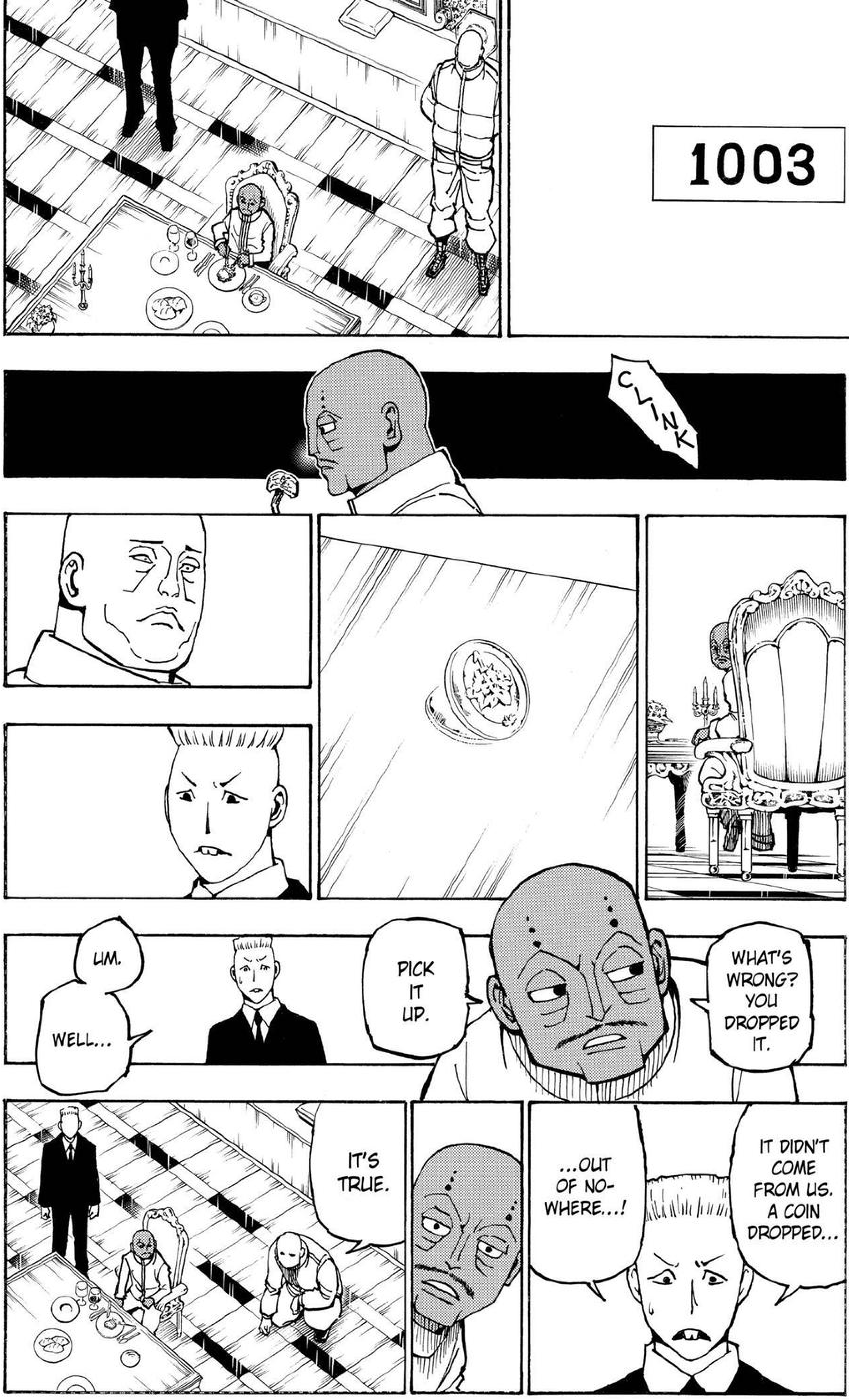


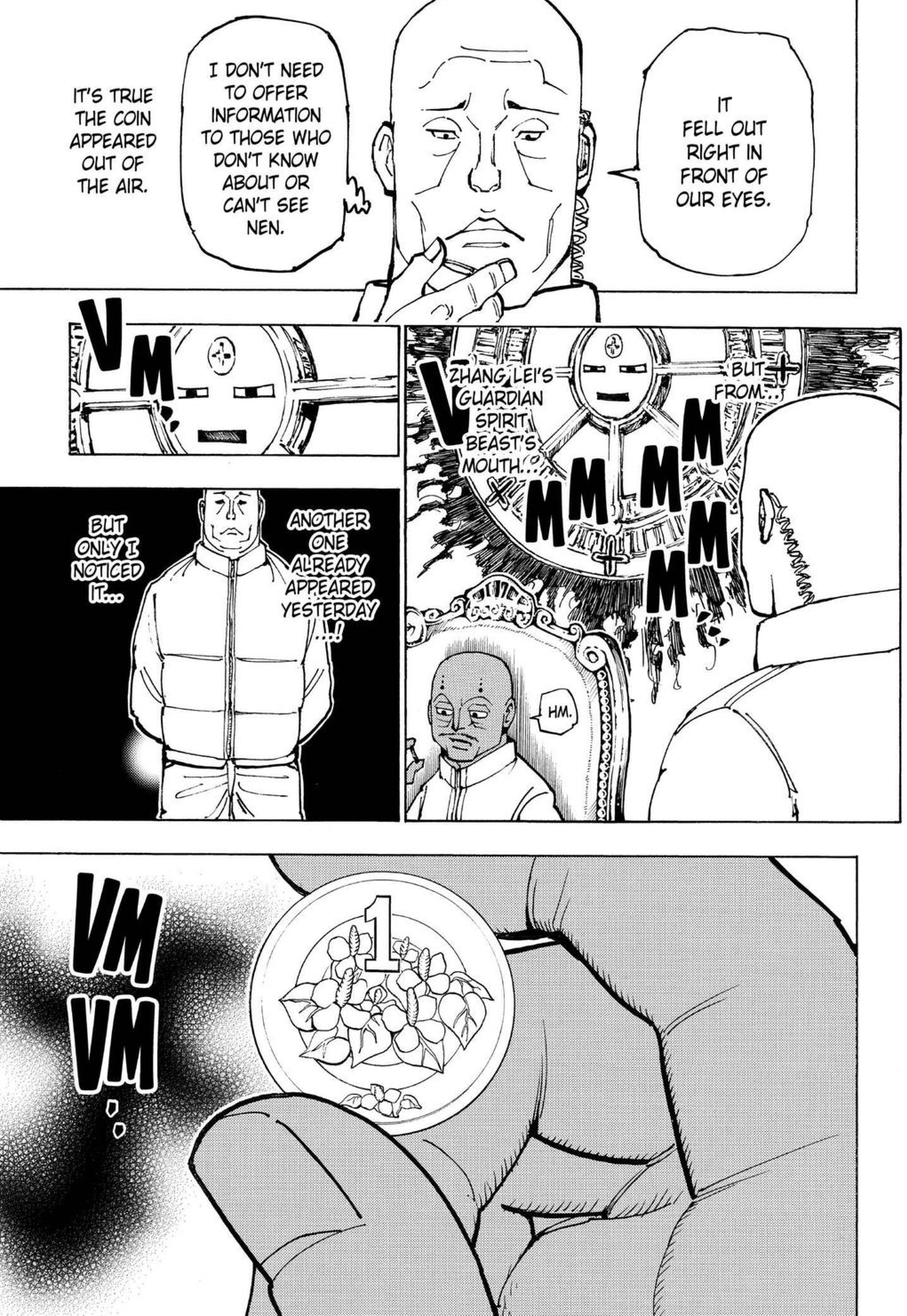

!!
TENTH PRINCE KACHO'S HEARTBEAT HAS SHOT UP?!
DID YOU NOTICE?
YEAH!
PRINCE!
?
TENTH PRINCE KACHO, ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
WHY?
TENTH PRINCE KACHO! PLEASE RELY ON US MORE.
IT'S OUR JOB TO PROTECT YOU.
YEAH.

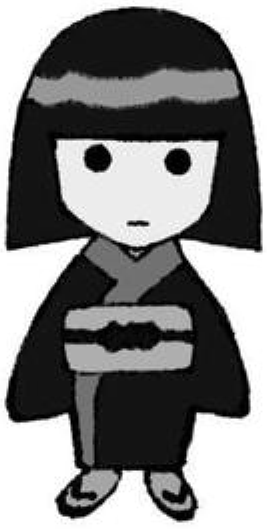

IT'S YOUR JOB, SO JUST DO YOUR BEST AND GET PAID.
JUST WANDER AROUND AND PRETEND THAT YOU'RE WORRIED ABOUT ME, LIKE YOU DID NOW.
BDMP
BDMP
SHE'S SO STRONG...
HER HEARTBEAT SHOWS THAT SHE BELIEVES IT'S HER DUTY TO DO THIS...
I FEEL PRIDE IN MY WORK.
I DON'T HAVE ANYONE CLOSE TO ME I'D WANT TO PROTECT WITH MY LIFE LIKE YOU DO...
BUT IF PROTECTING SOMEONE IS MY MISSION, I'M PREPARED TO OFFER MY LIFE.
DON'T TALK LIKE YOU KNOW EVERYTHING!
HAVE YOUR PARENTS EVER TOLD ALL YOUR SIBLINGS TO KILL EACH OTHER?!
I'M NOT PUTTING MY LIFE ON THE LINE BECAUSE I WANT TO.
...
YOU'RE RIGHT.
...
WHY DO YOU EVEN THINK I'M DOING THIS FOR SOMEONE ELSE?
THIS GIRL...
TENTH PRINCE KACHO, MAY I...
...TALK TO YOU ABOUT NEN?
...SHOULD BE TOLD THE TRUTH.

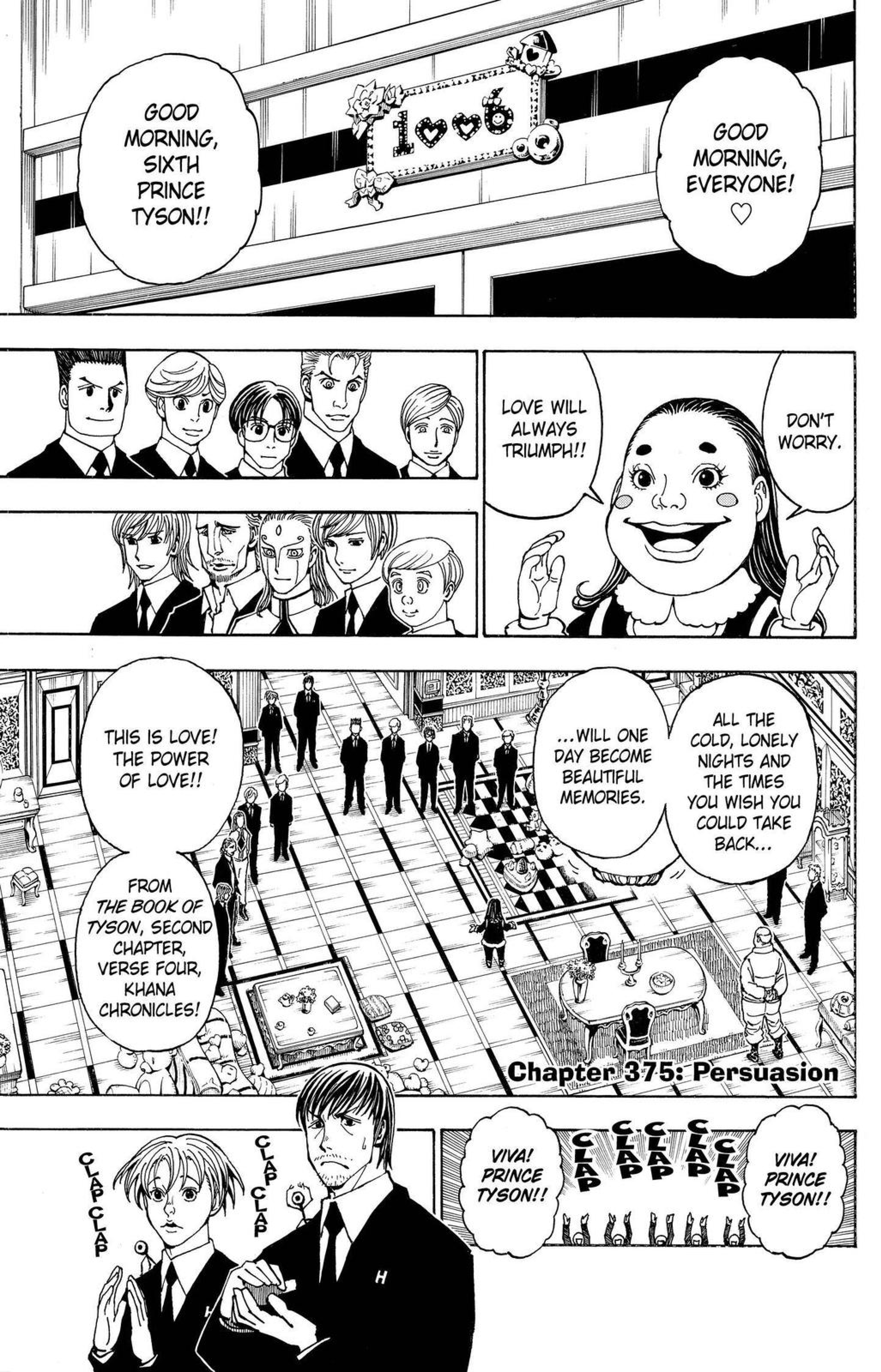

PFFT
FSHT
EIGHTH PRINCE SALÉ-SALÉ'S GUARDIAN SPIRIT BEAST IS A MANIPULATOR…! IT'S A DIFFUSIVE INDUCTION TYPE AND IS WEAKLY COMPELLING, BUT CAN CONTROL MANY PEOPLE.
THE WHITE SMOKE IT INTERMITTENTLY EXHALES… I SURMISE THE MORE YOU BREATHE IT IN THE MORE YOUR GOODWILL TOWARD THE PRINCE INCREASES.
THE PRINCE'S EMOTIONS AFFECT THE AMOUNT OF SMOKE AND AREA OF INFLUENCE, BUT IT AVERAGES A RADIUS OF 7 METERS.
ONCE YOU'VE BREATHED MORE THAN A CERTAIN AMOUNT…
…A CLONE APPEARS ABOVE YOUR HEAD!
PST
IT IN TURN MAKES CONTACT WITH SOMEONE ELSE, AND MAKES MORE CLONES.
IT'S A CONTAGIOUS CARRIER OF GOODWILL TOWARD THE PRINCE!


THERE ARE THREE POSSIBLE GOALS OF THIS MULTIPLICATION OF THE NEN BEAST...!! 1) CONTROL AND INCREASE ALLIES. 2) ERODE AND DECREASE ENEMIES. 3) STEAL SOMETHING FROM THOSE ENLISTED TO INCREASE THE POWER OF THE NEN BEAST ITSELF OR ITS USER.
CONSIDERING HIS NATURE, HE DESIRES A HAREM. MY HYPOTHESIS SHOULD BE CORRECT.
THE ATTENDANT GUARDS ARE HIGHLY LOYAL TO BEGIN WITH. IT TOOK HALF A DAY TO GENERATE A DUPLICATE WITH THE GIRLS...
KOROABDE, ON THE SAME SHIFT AS ME AND GUARDING 16 HOURS A DAY, HAS BEEN UNKNOWINGLY BREATHING IN THE DRIFTING SMOKE...
PFF
THIRD QUEEN TANG ZHAO LI'S GUARD, WITH ZERO LOYALTY TO SALÉ-SALÉ... IF I CAN FIND OUT HOW MANY HOURS IT TAKES FOR A DUPLICATE TO APPEAR OVER HIS HEAD.
I'LL UNLEASH THE PREDATOR!!
IF IT'S EFFECTIVE AGAINST THE GUARDIAN SPIRIT BEAST, I CAN CONTRIBUTE TO FIRST PRINCE BENJAMIN'S VICTORY!!
BMP
BMP
STRANGER: PREDATOR A CONJURATIVE ABILITY. WHEN RIHAN DETERMINES HIS TARGET AND ACTIVATES HIS NEN, A PREDATOR STARTS GROWING INSIDE HIM.
THE MORE ACCURATE HE IS IN ANALYZING AND UNDERSTANDING HIS TARGET'S ABILITY, THE EASIER IT GROWS INTO HIS TARGET'S PREDATOR, AND THE MORE SUPERIOR TO THE TARGET'S ABILITY IT WILL BE. ITS POWER GROWS STRONGER THE MORE ACCURATELY HE PREDICTS THE ABILITY FROM A STATE OF COMPLETE IGNORANCE, SO IT'S POWERLESS AGAINST SIMPLE REINFORCER AND EMITTER ATTACKS.


1003
CLINK
WHAT'S WRONG? YOU DROPPED IT.
PICK IT UP.
UM.
WELL...
IT DIDN'T COME FROM US. A COIN DROPPED...
...OUT OF NO-WHERE...!
IT'S TRUE.

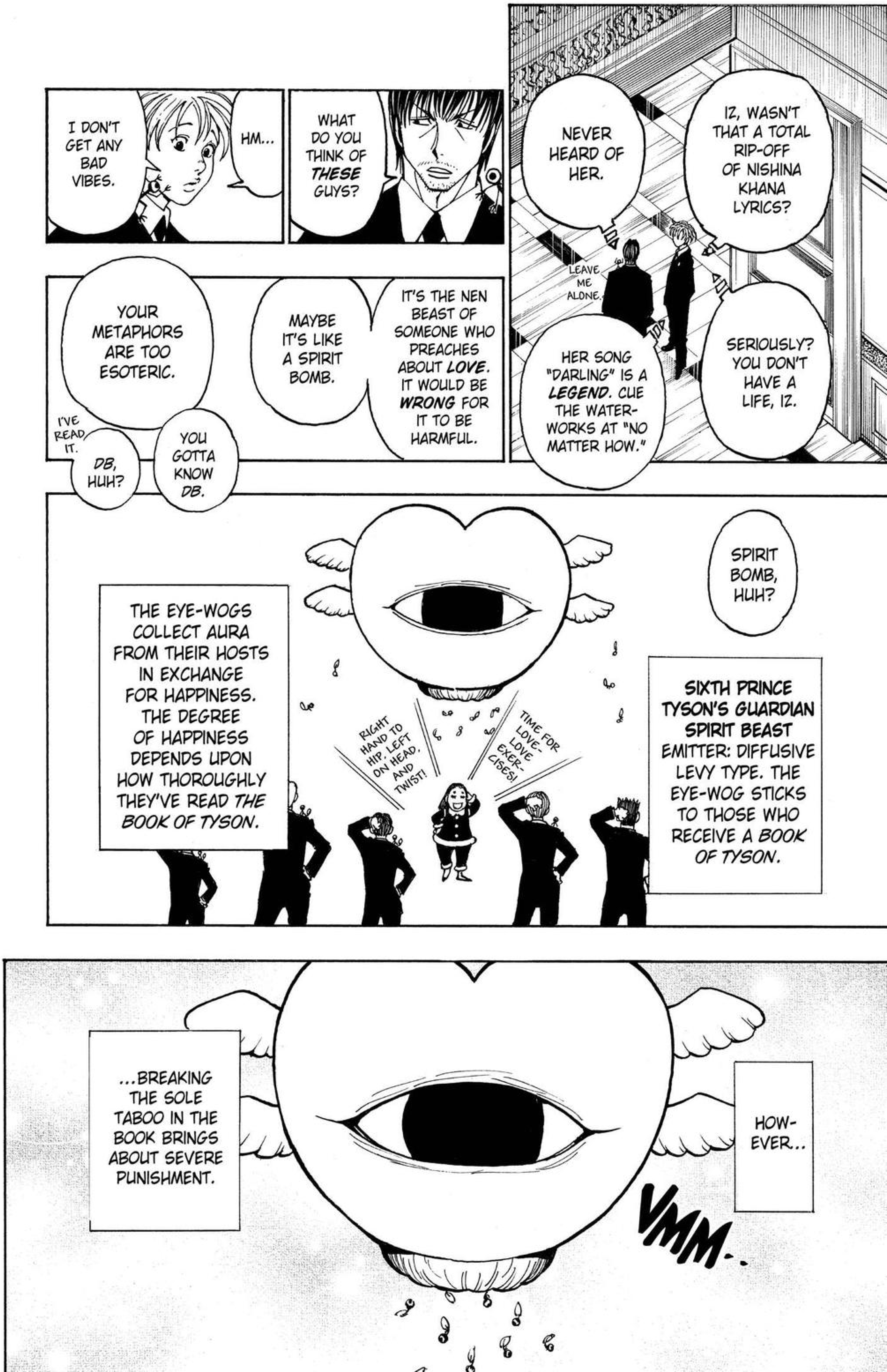

IT FELL OUT RIGHT IN FRONT OF OUR EYES.
I DON'T NEED TO OFFER INFORMATION TO THOSE WHO DON'T KNOW ABOUT OR CAN'T SEE NEN.
IT'S TRUE THE COIN APPEARED OUT OF THE AIR.
BUT FROM...
ZHANG LEI'S GUARDIAN SPIRIT BEAST'S MOUTH...
VMMMMMM
HM.
VM
ANOTHER ONE ALREADY APPEARED YESTERDAY...!
BUT ONLY I NOTICED IT...
1
VM VM

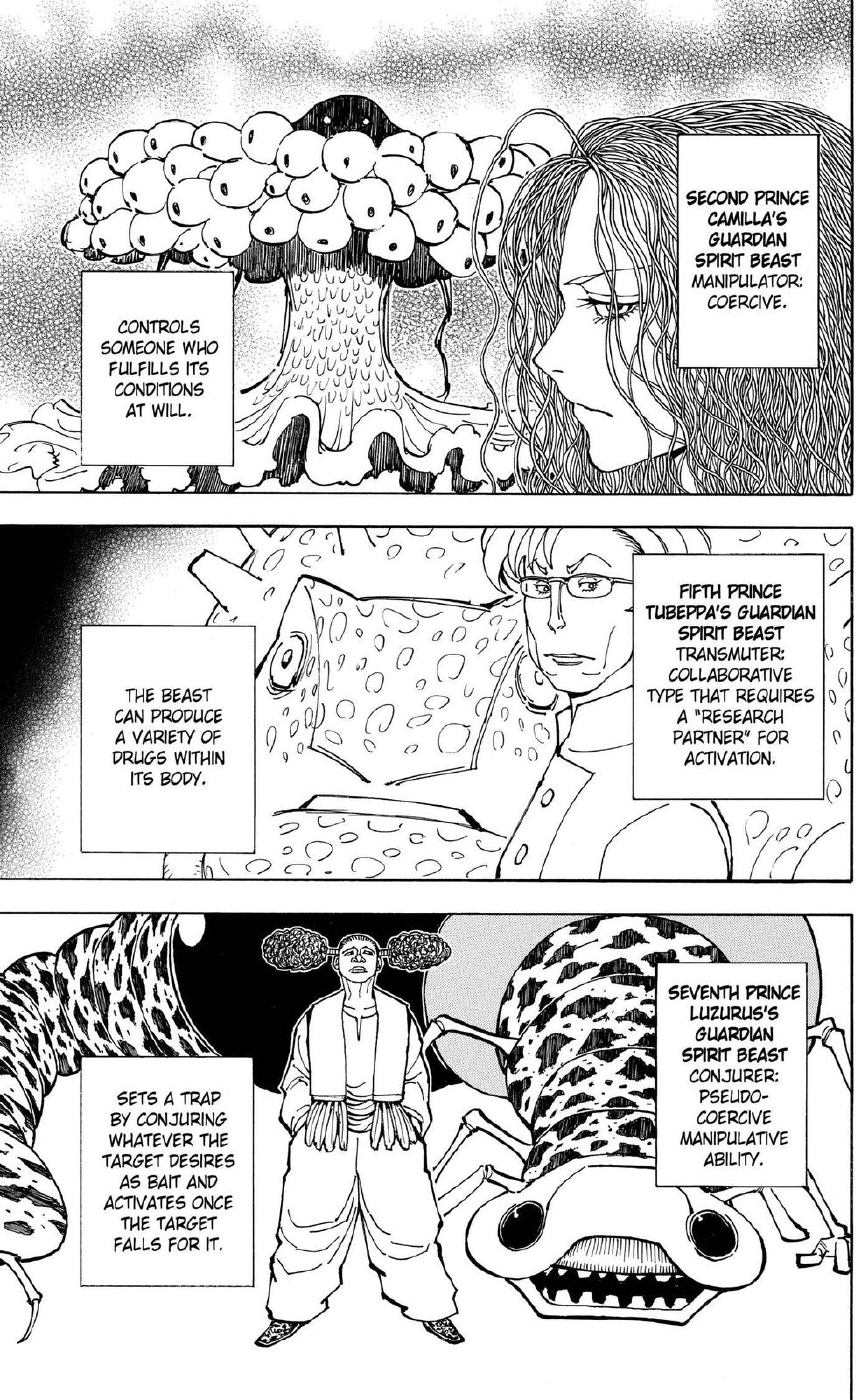


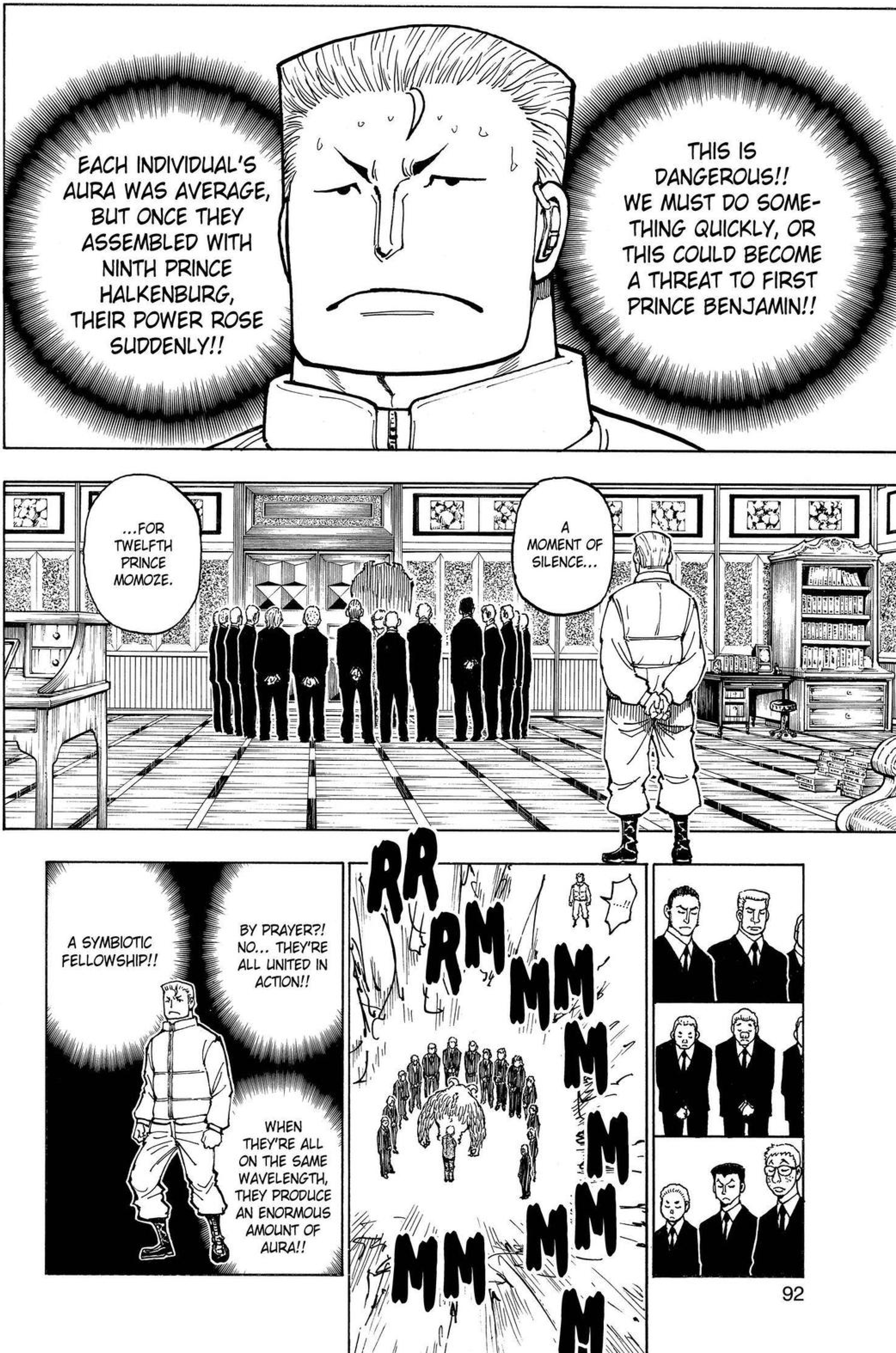


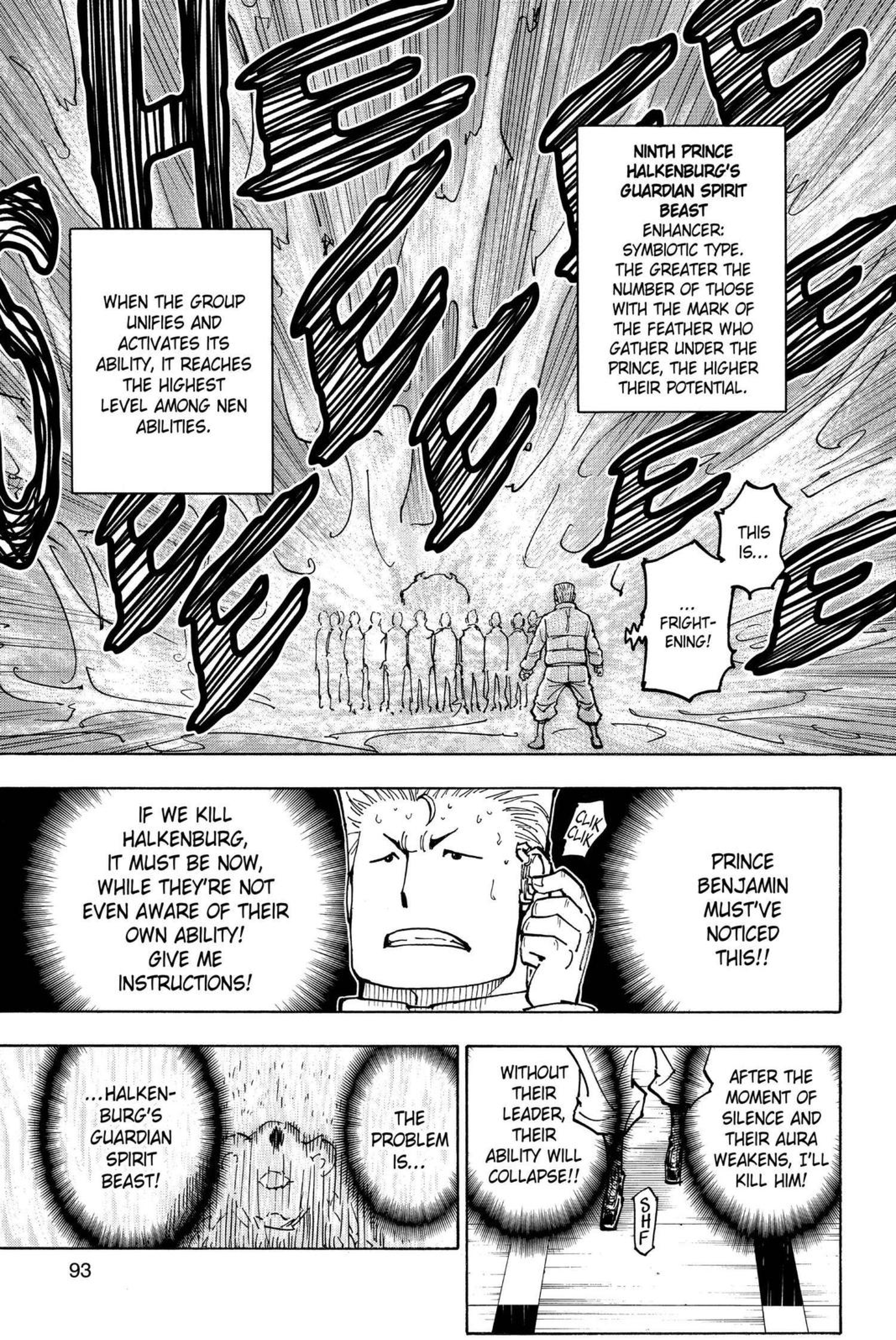
Chapter 375: Persuasion

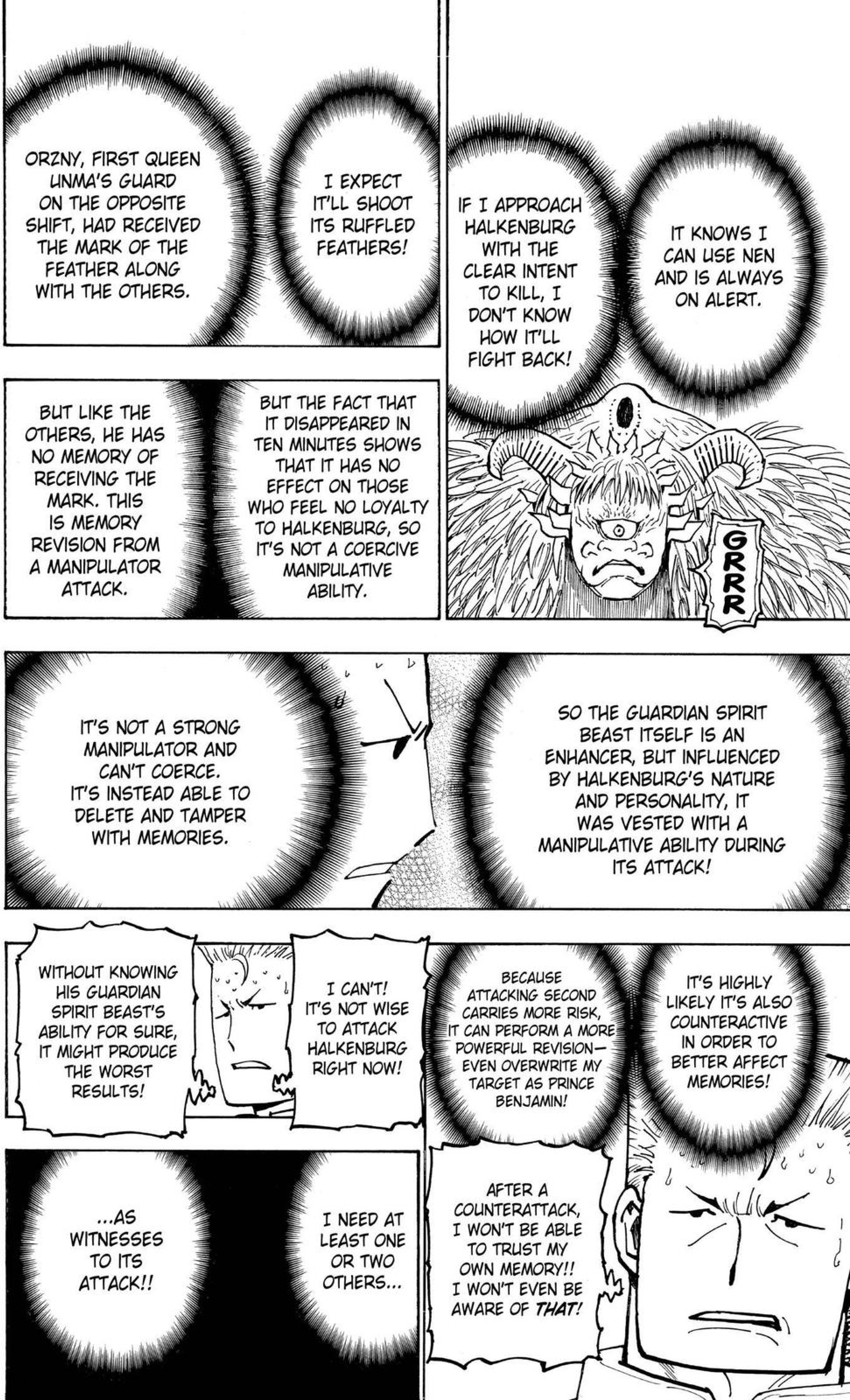
GOOD MORNING, EVERYONE! ♡
GOOD MORNING, SIXTH PRINCE TYSON!!
DON'T WORRY.
LOVE WILL ALWAYS TRIUMPH!!
ALL THE COLD, LONELY NIGHTS AND THE TIMES YOU WISH YOU COULD TAKE BACK...
...WILL ONE DAY BECOME BEAUTIFUL MEMORIES.
THIS IS LOVE! THE POWER OF LOVE!!
FROM *THE BOOK OF TYSON*, SECOND CHAPTER, VERSE FOUR, KHANA CHRONICLES!
VIVA! PRINCE TYSON!!
CLAP CLAP CLAP CLAP CLAP
VIVA! PRINCE TYSON!!
CLAP CLAP
CLAP CLAP

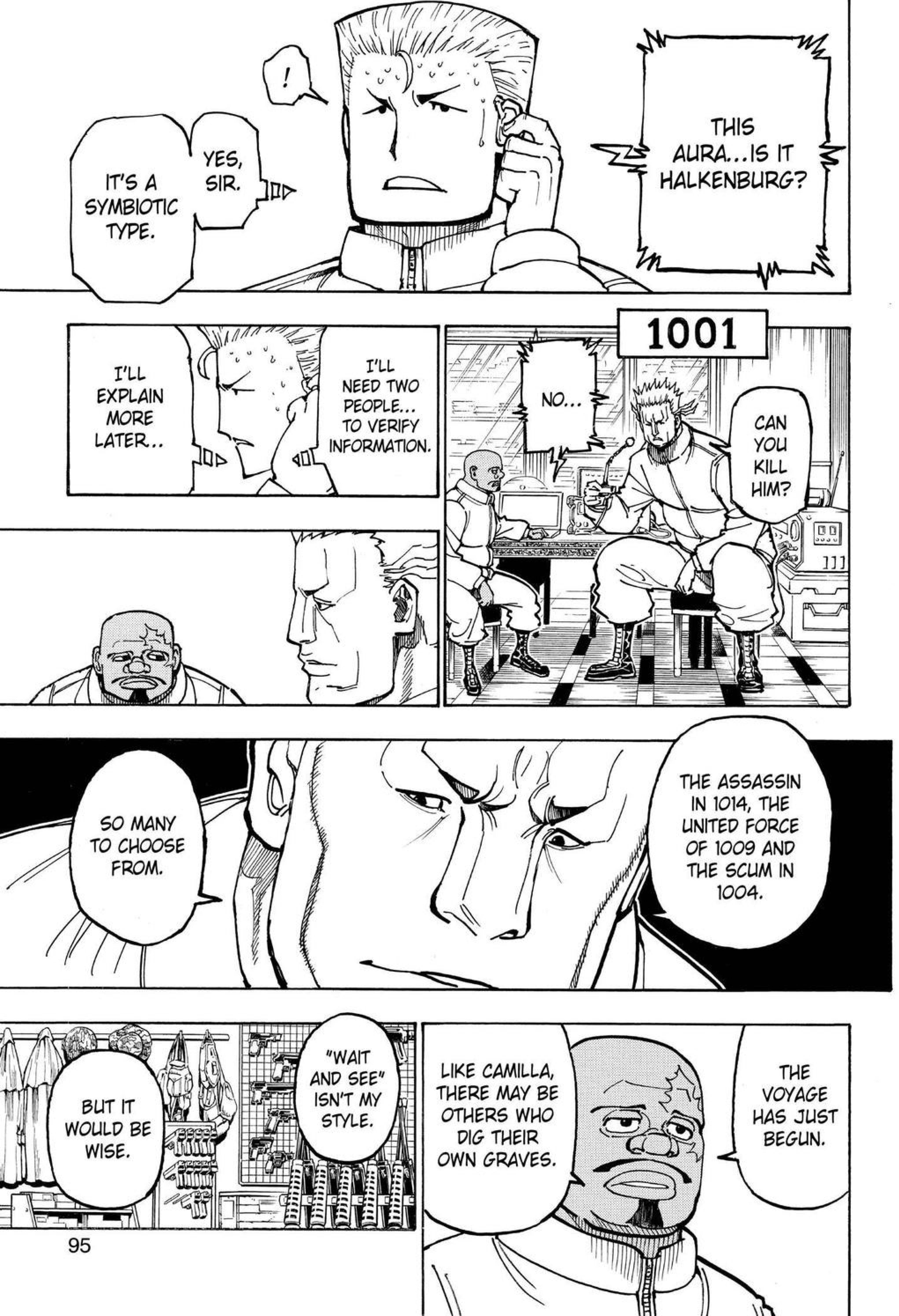

IZ, WASN'T THAT A TOTAL RIP-OFF OF NISHINA KHANA LYRICS?
NEVER HEARD OF HER.
SERIOUSLY? YOU DON'T HAVE A LIFE, IZ.
HER SONG "DARLING" IS A ***LEGEND***. CUE THE WATERWORKS AT "NO MATTER HOW."
LEAVE ME ALONE.
WHAT DO YOU THINK OF ***THESE*** GUYS?
HM...
I DON'T GET ANY BAD VIBES.
IT'S THE NEN BEAST OF SOMEONE WHO PREACHES ABOUT ***LOVE***. IT WOULD BE ***WRONG*** FOR IT TO BE HARMFUL.
MAYBE IT'S LIKE A SPIRIT BOMB.
YOUR METAPHORS ARE TOO ESOTERIC.
YOU GOTTA KNOW *DB*.
DB, HUH?
I'VE READ IT.
SPIRIT BOMB, HUH?
SIXTH PRINCE TYSON'S GUARDIAN SPIRIT BEAST
EMITTER: DIFFUSIVE LEVY TYPE. THE EYE-WOG STICKS TO THOSE WHO RECEIVE A *BOOK OF TYSON*.
TIME FOR LOVE-LOVE EXERCISES!
RIGHT HAND TO HIP, LEFT ON HEAD, AND TWIST!
THE EYE-WOGS COLLECT AURA FROM THEIR HOSTS IN EXCHANGE FOR HAPPINESS. THE DEGREE OF HAPPINESS DEPENDS UPON HOW THOROUGHLY THEY'VE READ *THE BOOK OF TYSON*.
HOWEVER...
...BREAKING THE SOLE TABOO IN THE BOOK BRINGS ABOUT SEVERE PUNISHMENT.
VMM..

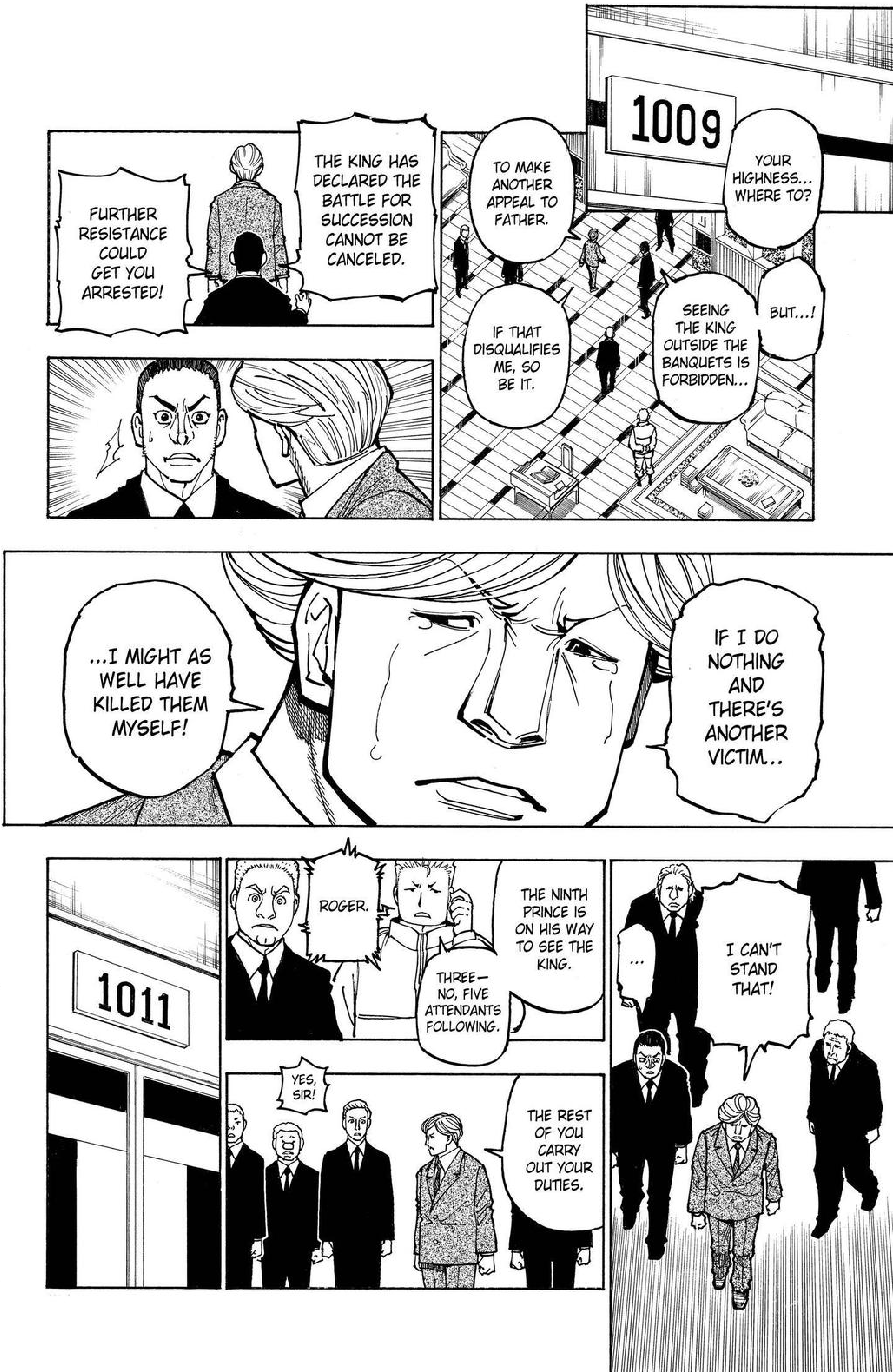

SECOND PRINCE CAMILLA'S GUARDIAN SPIRIT BEAST MANIPULATOR: COERCIVE.
CONTROLS SOMEONE WHO FULFILLS ITS CONDITIONS AT WILL.
FIFTH PRINCE TUBEPPA'S GUARDIAN SPIRIT BEAST TRANSMUTER: COLLABORATIVE TYPE THAT REQUIRES A "RESEARCH PARTNER" FOR ACTIVATION.
THE BEAST CAN PRODUCE A VARIETY OF DRUGS WITHIN ITS BODY.
SEVENTH PRINCE LUZURUS'S GUARDIAN SPIRIT BEAST CONJURER: PSEUDO-COERCIVE MANIPULATIVE ABILITY.
SETS A TRAP BY CONJURING WHATEVER THE TARGET DESIRES AS BAIT AND ACTIVATES ONCE THE TARGET FALLS FOR IT.

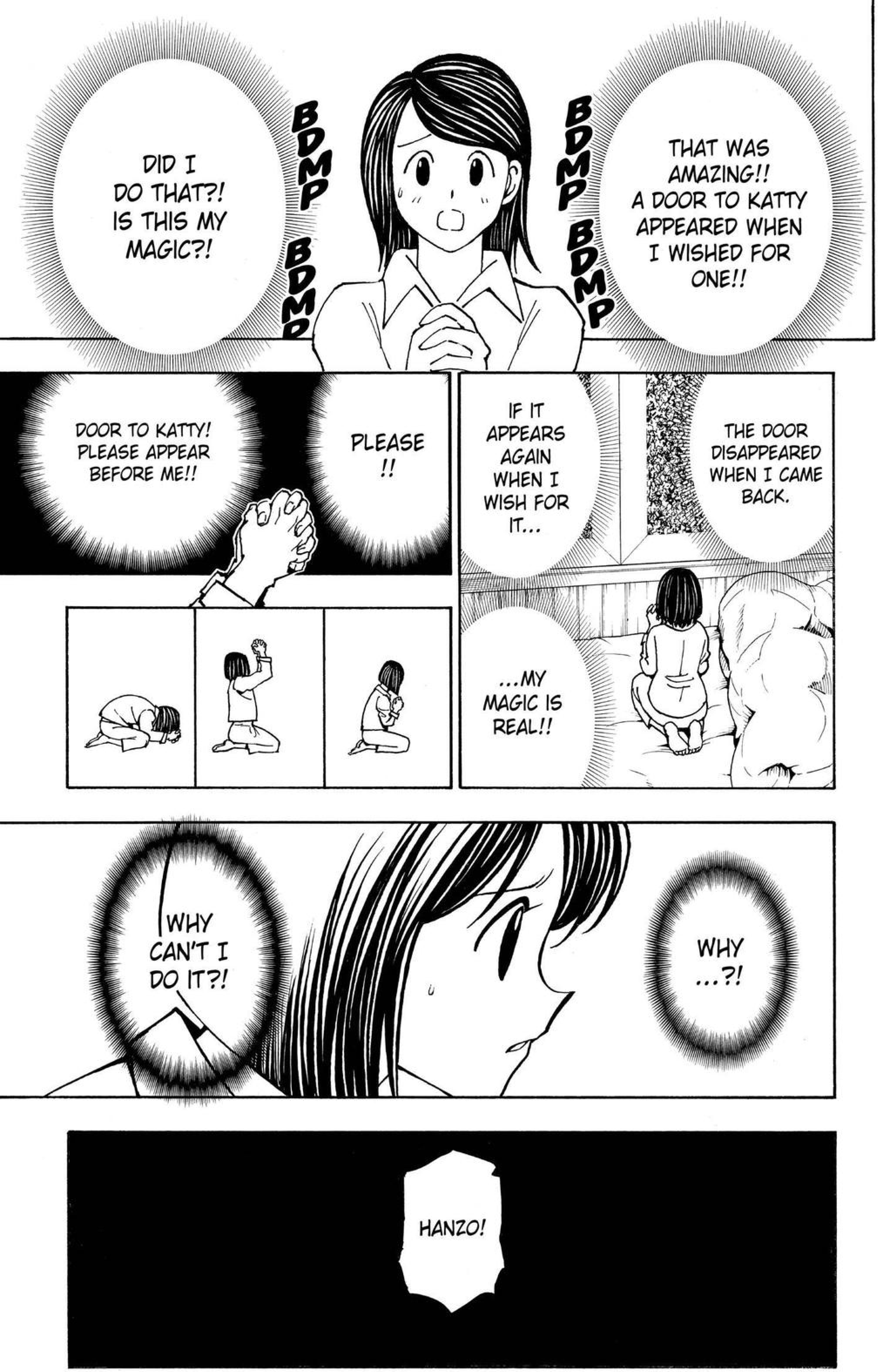

EACH INDIVIDUAL'S AURA WAS AVERAGE, BUT ONCE THEY ASSEMBLED WITH NINTH PRINCE HALKENBURG, THEIR POWER ROSE SUDDENLY!!
THIS IS DANGEROUS!! WE MUST DO SOMETHING QUICKLY, OR THIS COULD BECOME A THREAT TO FIRST PRINCE BENJAMIN!!
A MOMENT OF SILENCE...
...FOR TWELFTH PRINCE MOMOZE.
BY PRAYER?! NO... THEY'RE ALL UNITED IN ACTION!!
A SYMBIOTIC FELLOWSHIP!!
WHEN THEY'RE ALL ON THE SAME WAVELENGTH, THEY PRODUCE AN ENORMOUS AMOUNT OF AURA!!
RRRMMMMMMMMMM
!
......

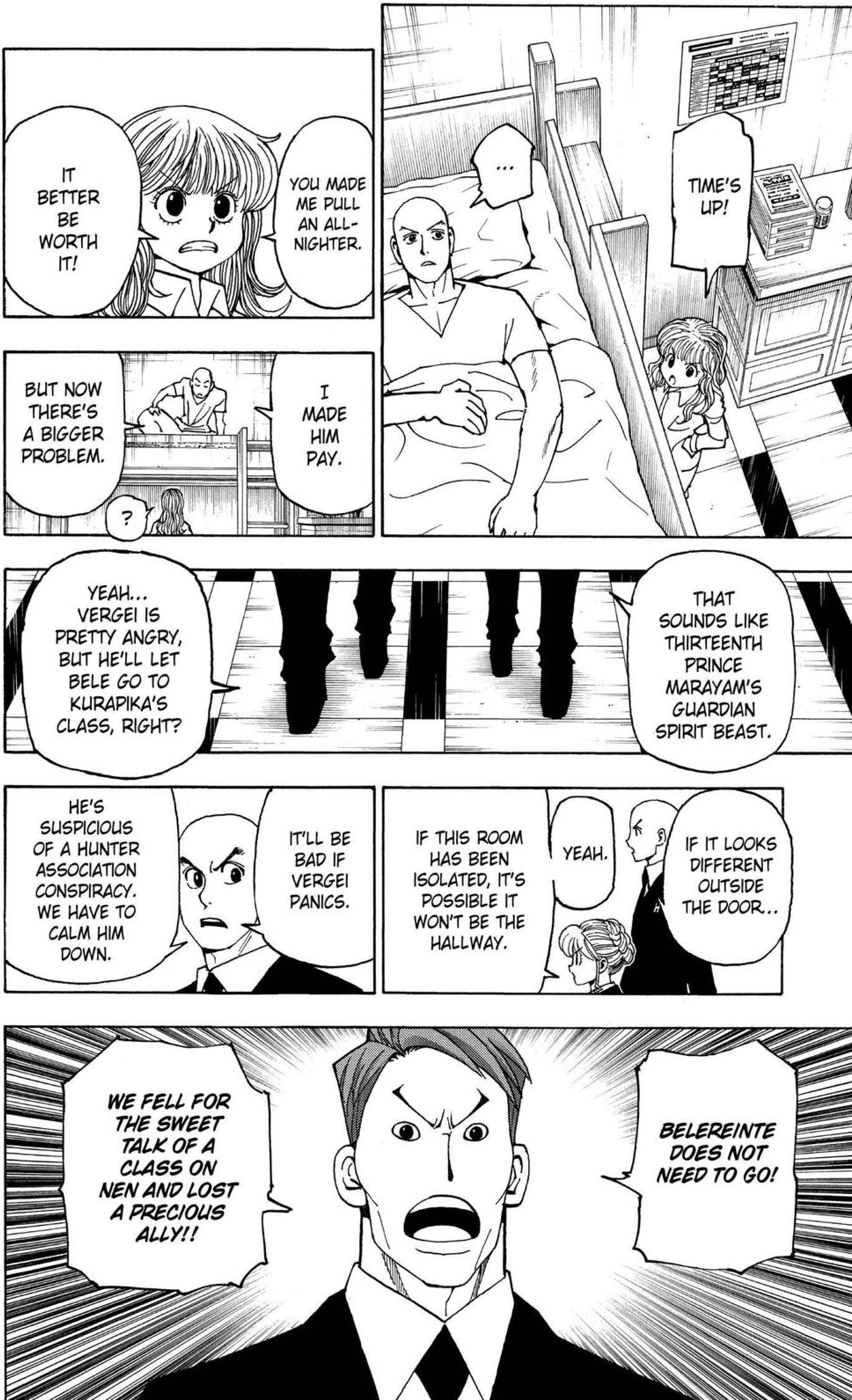

NINTH PRINCE HALKENBURG'S GUARDIAN SPIRIT BEAST
ENHANCER: SYMBIOTIC TYPE. THE GREATER THE NUMBER OF THOSE WITH THE MARK OF THE FEATHER WHO GATHER UNDER THE PRINCE, THE HIGHER THEIR POTENTIAL.
WHEN THE GROUP UNIFIES AND ACTIVATES ITS ABILITY, IT REACHES THE HIGHEST LEVEL AMONG NEN ABILITIES.
HEEEEEEEEEE
THIS IS...
...FRIGHTENING!
PRINCE BENJAMIN MUST'VE NOTICED THIS!!
CLIK CLIK
IF WE KILL HALKENBURG, IT MUST BE NOW, WHILE THEY'RE NOT EVEN AWARE OF THEIR OWN ABILITY! GIVE ME INSTRUCTIONS!
AFTER THE MOMENT OF SILENCE AND THEIR AURA WEAKENS, I'LL KILL HIM!
WITHOUT THEIR LEADER, THEIR ABILITY WILL COLLAPSE!!
SHF
THE PROBLEM IS...
...HALKENBURG'S GUARDIAN SPIRIT BEAST!

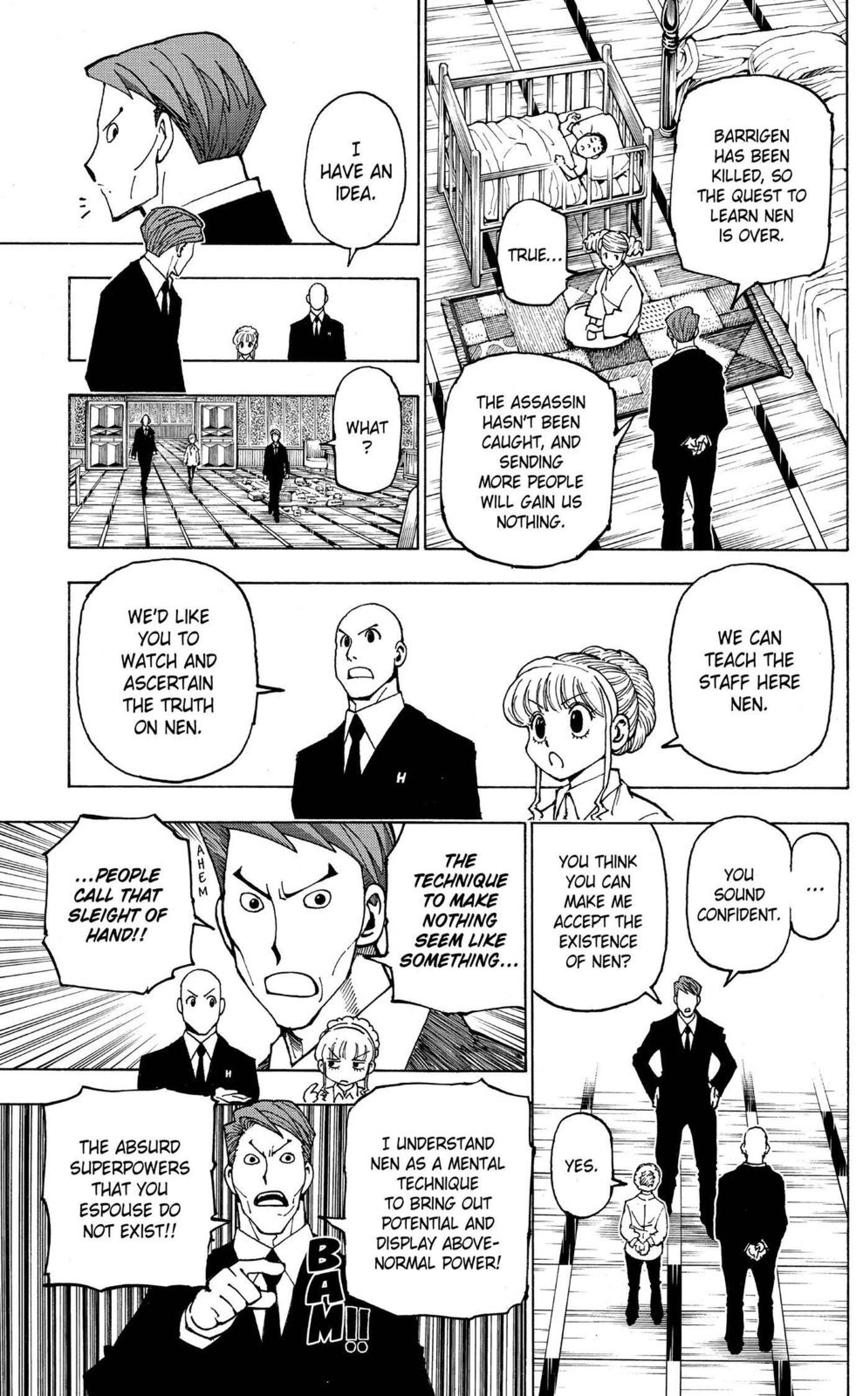

IT KNOWS I CAN USE NEN AND IS ALWAYS ON ALERT.
IF I APPROACH HALKENBURG WITH THE CLEAR INTENT TO KILL, I DON'T KNOW HOW IT'LL FIGHT BACK!
GRRR
I EXPECT IT'LL SHOOT ITS RUFFLED FEATHERS!
ORZNY, FIRST QUEEN UNMA'S GUARD ON THE OPPOSITE SHIFT, HAD RECEIVED THE MARK OF THE FEATHER ALONG WITH THE OTHERS.
BUT THE FACT THAT IT DISAPPEARED IN TEN MINUTES SHOWS THAT IT HAS NO EFFECT ON THOSE WHO FEEL NO LOYALTY TO HALKENBURG, SO IT'S NOT A COERCIVE MANIPULATIVE ABILITY.
BUT LIKE THE OTHERS, HE HAS NO MEMORY OF RECEIVING THE MARK. THIS IS MEMORY REVISION FROM A MANIPULATOR ATTACK.
SO THE GUARDIAN SPIRIT BEAST ITSELF IS AN ENHANCER, BUT INFLUENCED BY HALKENBURG'S NATURE AND PERSONALITY, IT WAS VESTED WITH A MANIPULATIVE ABILITY DURING ITS ATTACK!
IT'S NOT A STRONG MANIPULATOR AND CAN'T COERCE. IT'S INSTEAD ABLE TO DELETE AND TAMPER WITH MEMORIES.
IT'S HIGHLY LIKELY IT'S ALSO COUNTERACTIVE IN ORDER TO BETTER AFFECT MEMORIES!
BECAUSE ATTACKING SECOND CARRIES MORE RISK, IT CAN PERFORM A MORE POWERFUL REVISION—EVEN OVERWRITE MY TARGET AS PRINCE BENJAMIN!
I CAN'T! IT'S NOT WISE TO ATTACK HALKENBURG RIGHT NOW!
WITHOUT KNOWING HIS GUARDIAN SPIRIT BEAST'S ABILITY FOR SURE, IT MIGHT PRODUCE THE WORST RESULTS!
AFTER A COUNTERATTACK, I WON'T BE ABLE TO TRUST MY OWN MEMORY!! I WON'T EVEN BE AWARE OF *THAT*!
I NEED AT LEAST ONE OR TWO OTHERS...
...AS WITNESSES TO ITS ATTACK!!

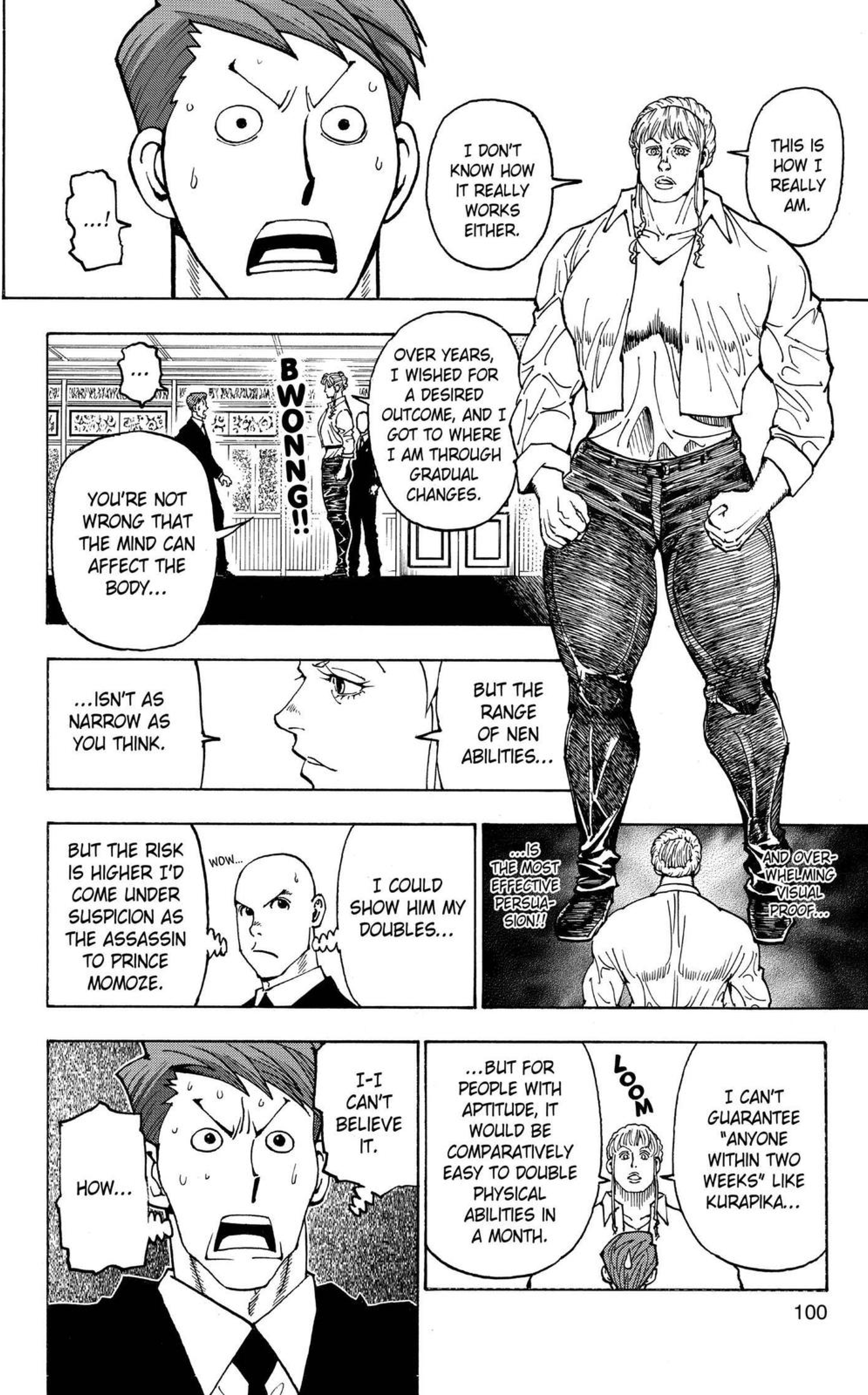

THIS AURA...IS IT HALKENBURG?
!
YES, SIR.
IT'S A SYMBIOTIC TYPE.
1001
CAN YOU KILL HIM?
NO...
I'LL NEED TWO PEOPLE... TO VERIFY INFORMATION.
I'LL EXPLAIN MORE LATER..
THE ASSASSIN IN 1014, THE UNITED FORCE OF 1009 AND THE SCUM IN 1004.
SO MANY TO CHOOSE FROM.
THE VOYAGE HAS JUST BEGUN.
LIKE CAMILLA, THERE MAY BE OTHERS WHO DIG THEIR OWN GRAVES.
"WAIT AND SEE" ISN'T MY STYLE.
BUT IT WOULD BE WISE.

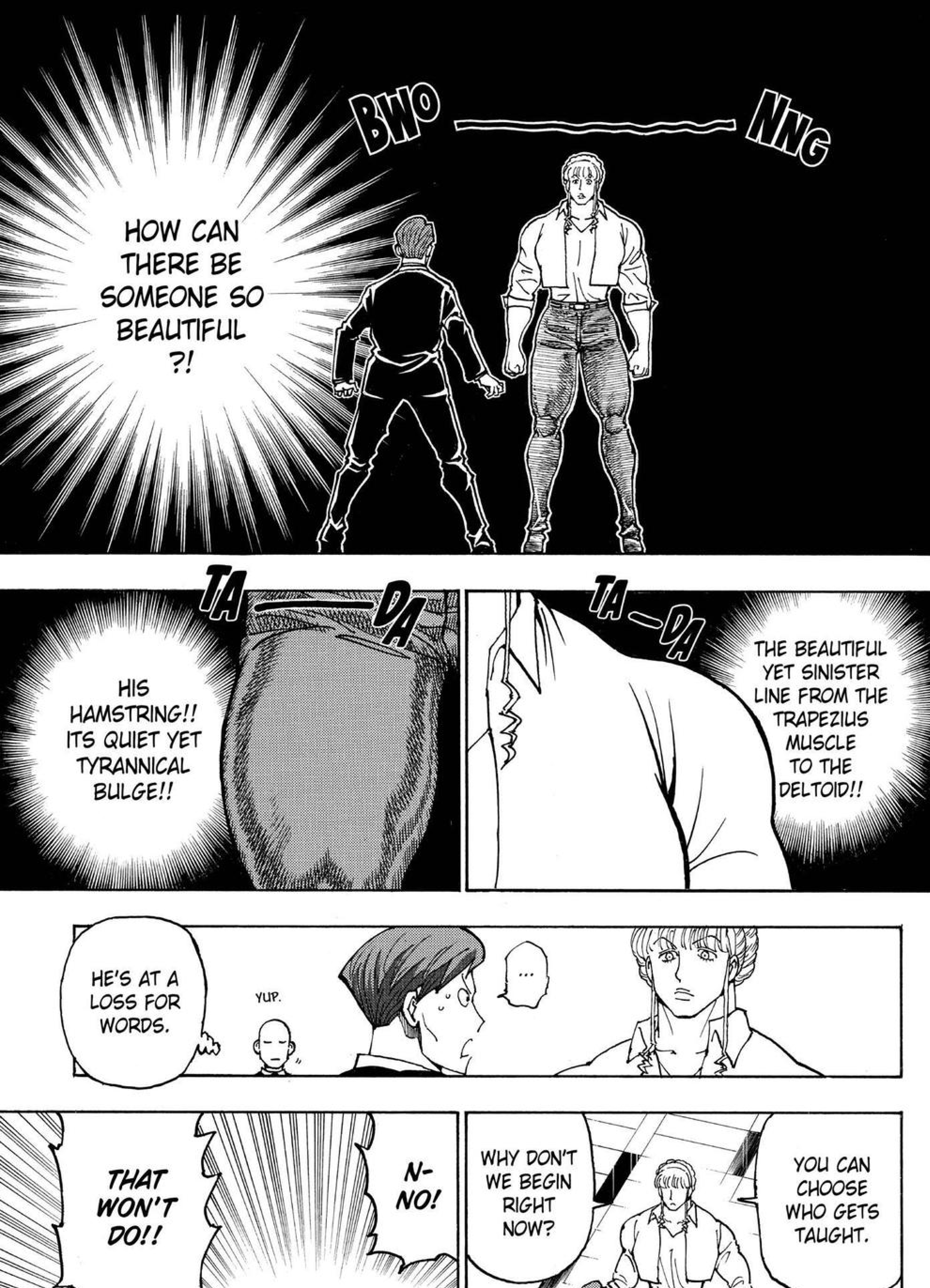

1009
YOUR HIGHNESS... WHERE TO?
TO MAKE ANOTHER APPEAL TO FATHER.
BUT...!
SEEING THE KING OUTSIDE THE BANQUETS IS FORBIDDEN...
IF THAT DISQUALIFIES ME, SO BE IT.
THE KING HAS DECLARED THE BATTLE FOR SUCCESSION CANNOT BE CANCELED.
FURTHER RESISTANCE COULD GET YOU ARRESTED!
IF I DO NOTHING AND THERE'S ANOTHER VICTIM...
...I MIGHT AS WELL HAVE KILLED THEM MYSELF!
I CAN'T STAND THAT!
...
THE NINTH PRINCE IS ON HIS WAY TO SEE THE KING.
THREE— NO, FIVE ATTENDANTS FOLLOWING.
ROGER.
THE REST OF YOU CARRY OUT YOUR DUTIES.
YES, SIR!
1011

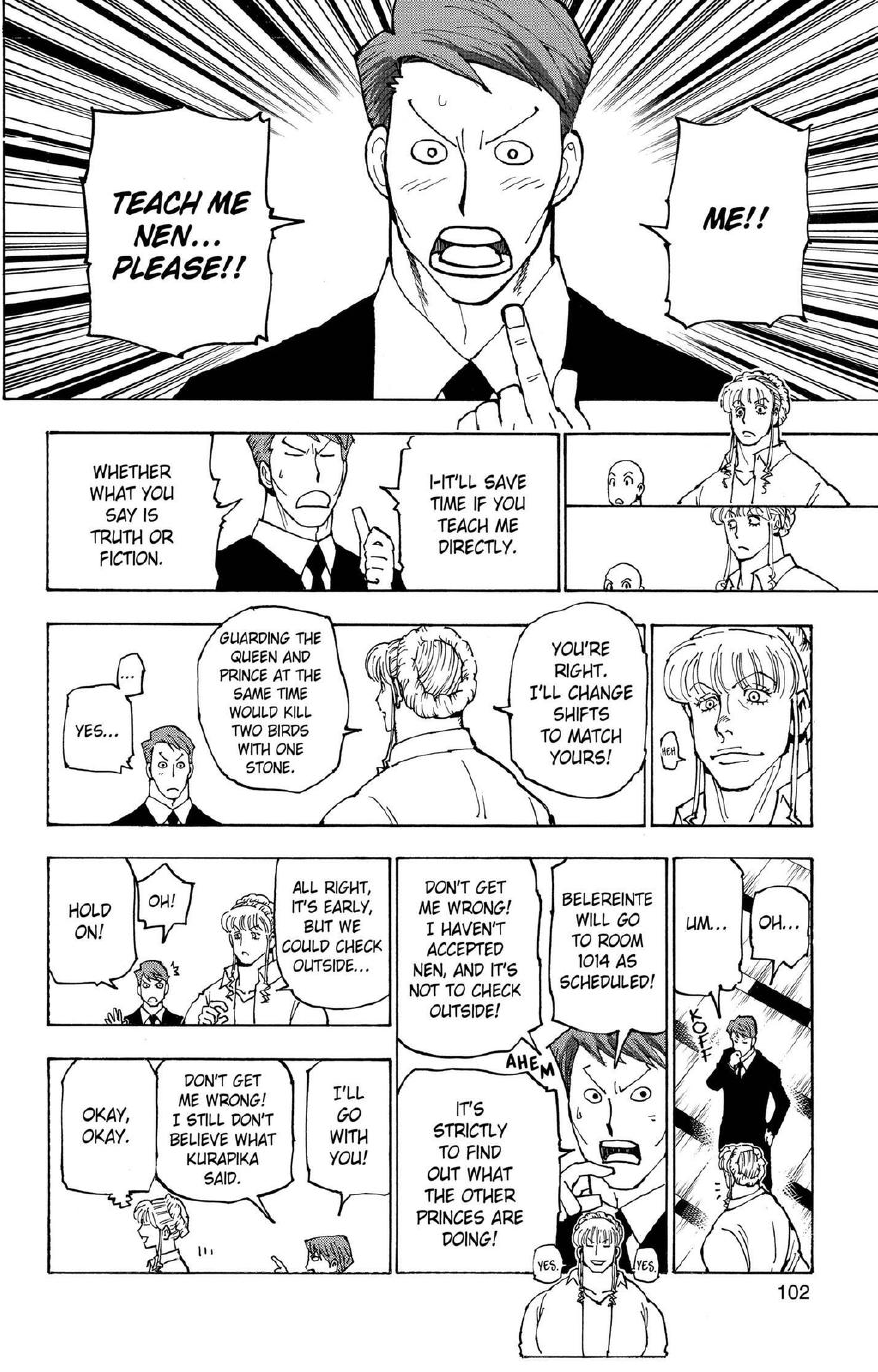

THAT WAS AMAZING!! A DOOR TO KATTY APPEARED WHEN I WISHED FOR ONE!!
BDMP BDMP
BDMP BDMP
DID I DO THAT?! IS THIS MY MAGIC?!
THE DOOR DISAPPEARED WHEN I CAME BACK.
IF IT APPEARS AGAIN WHEN I WISH FOR IT...
...MY MAGIC IS REAL!!
PLEASE!!
DOOR TO KATTY! PLEASE APPEAR BEFORE ME!!
WHY...?!
WHY CAN'T I DO IT?!
HANZO!

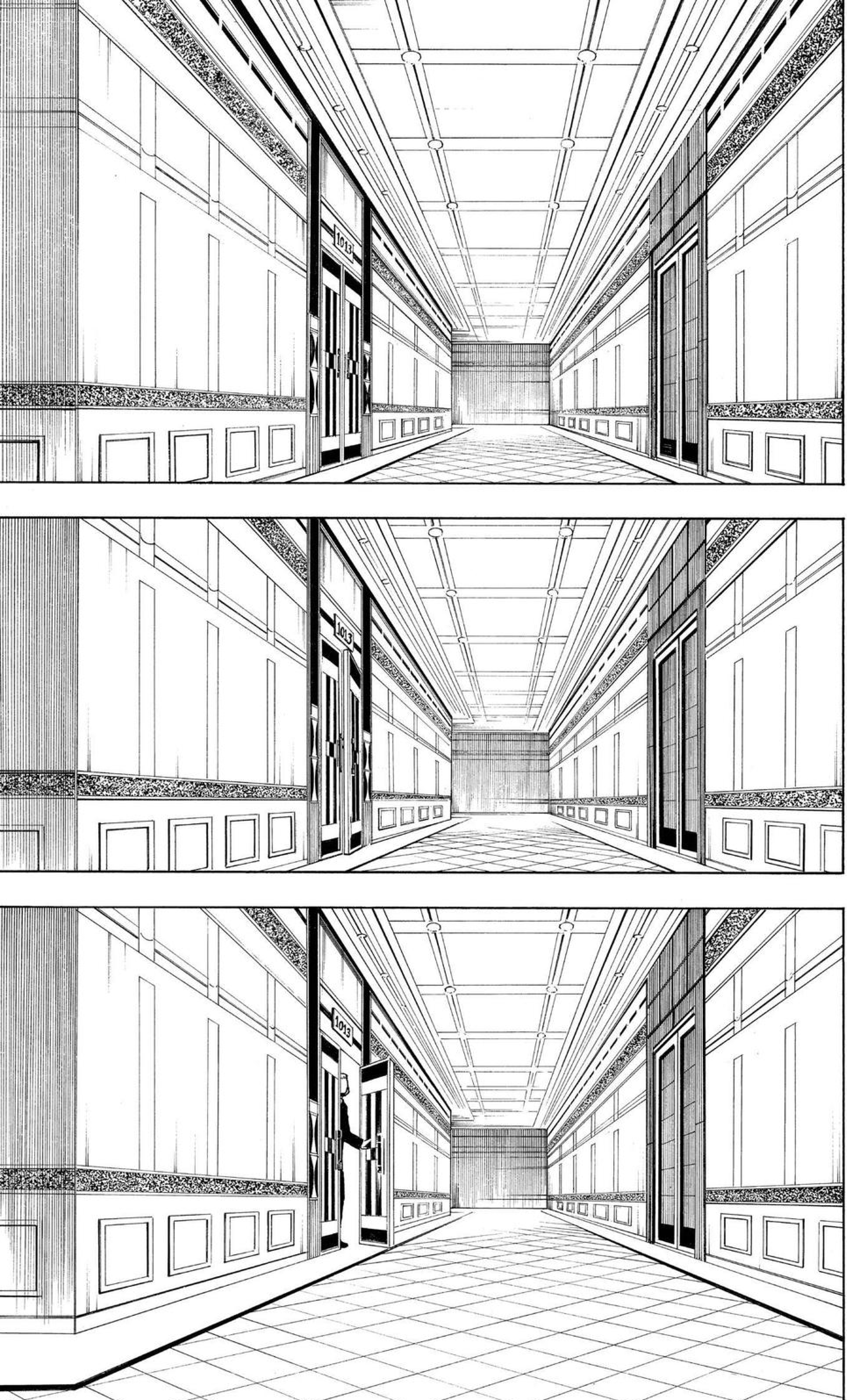

TIME'S UP!
...
YOU MADE ME PULL AN ALL-NIGHTER.
IT BETTER BE WORTH IT!
I MADE HIM PAY.
BUT NOW THERE'S A BIGGER PROBLEM.
?
THAT SOUNDS LIKE THIRTEENTH PRINCE MARAYAM'S GUARDIAN SPIRIT BEAST.
YEAH... VERGEI IS PRETTY ANGRY, BUT HE'LL LET BELE GO TO KURAPIKA'S CLASS, RIGHT?
IF IT LOOKS DIFFERENT OUTSIDE THE DOOR...
YEAH.
IF THIS ROOM HAS BEEN ISOLATED, IT'S POSSIBLE IT WON'T BE THE HALLWAY.
IT'LL BE BAD IF VERGEI PANICS.
HE'S SUSPICIOUS OF A HUNTER ASSOCIATION CONSPIRACY. WE HAVE TO CALM HIM DOWN.
BELEREINTE DOES NOT NEED TO GO!
WE FELL FOR THE SWEET TALK OF A CLASS ON NEN AND LOST A PRECIOUS ALLY!!

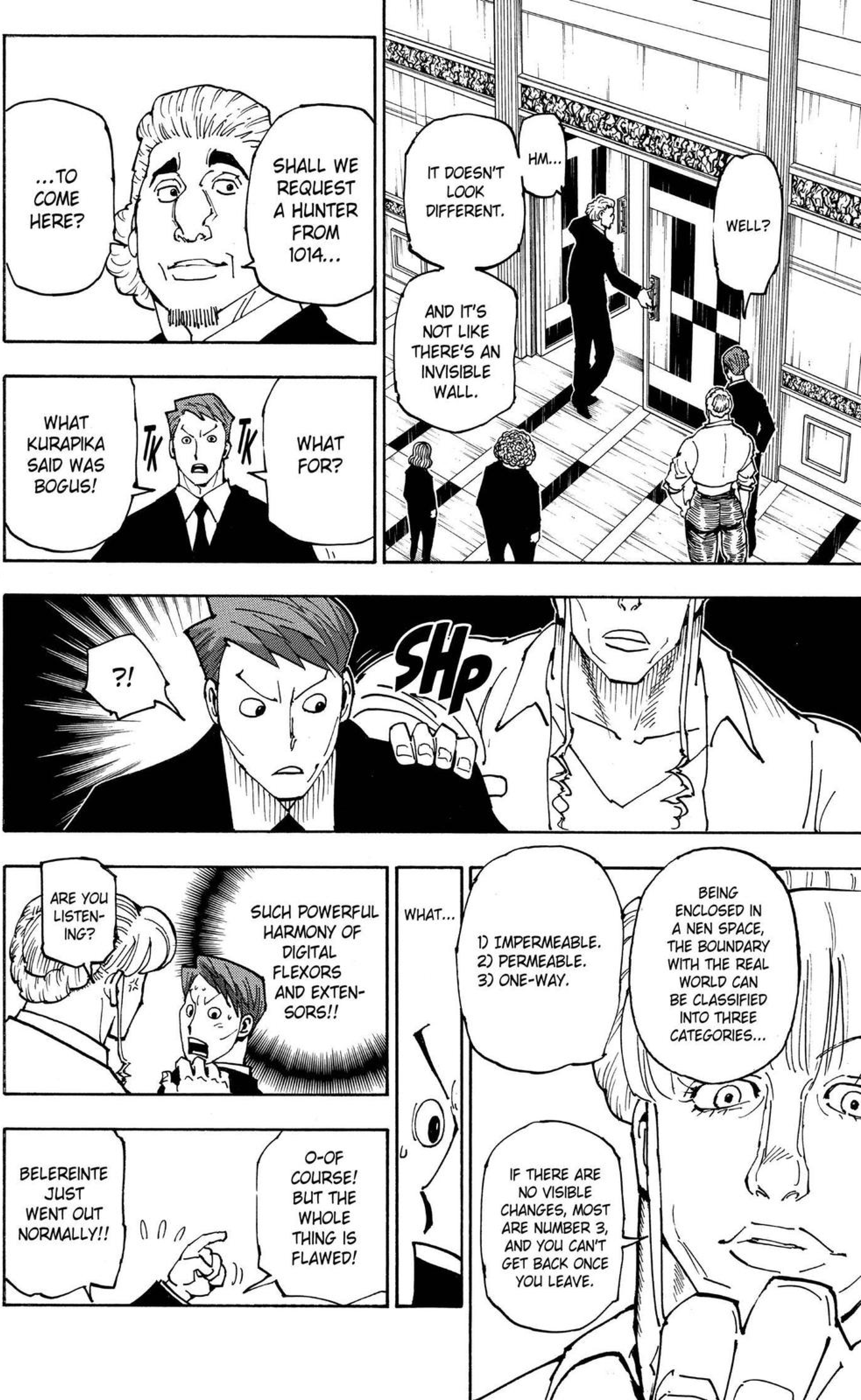

BARRIGEN HAS BEEN KILLED, SO THE QUEST TO LEARN NEN IS OVER.
TRUE...
THE ASSASSIN HASN'T BEEN CAUGHT, AND SENDING MORE PEOPLE WILL GAIN US NOTHING.
I HAVE AN IDEA.
WHAT?
WE CAN TEACH THE STAFF HERE NEN.
WE'D LIKE YOU TO WATCH AND ASCERTAIN THE TRUTH ON NEN.
...
YOU SOUND CONFIDENT.
YOU THINK YOU CAN MAKE ME ACCEPT THE EXISTENCE OF NEN?
YES.
AHEM
THE TECHNIQUE TO MAKE NOTHING SEEM LIKE SOMETHING...
...PEOPLE CALL THAT SLEIGHT OF HAND!!
I UNDERSTAND NEN AS A MENTAL TECHNIQUE TO BRING OUT POTENTIAL AND DISPLAY ABOVE-NORMAL POWER!
THE ABSURD SUPERPOWERS THAT YOU ESPOUSE DO NOT EXIST!!
BAM!!

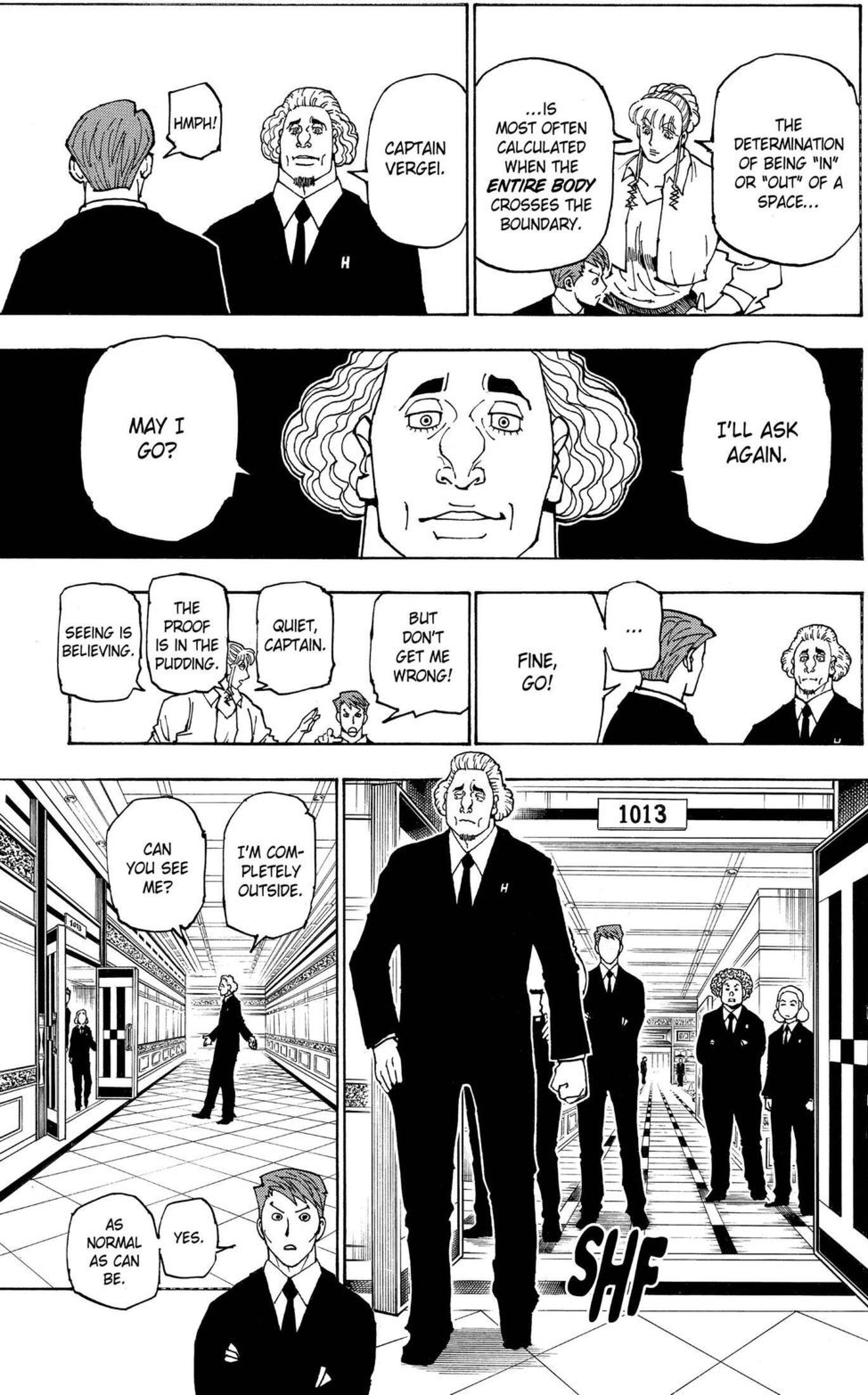

THIS IS HOW I REALLY AM.
I DON'T KNOW HOW IT REALLY WORKS EITHER.
...!
OVER YEARS, I WISHED FOR A DESIRED OUTCOME, AND I GOT TO WHERE I AM THROUGH GRADUAL CHANGES.
BWONNG!!
...
YOU'RE NOT WRONG THAT THE MIND CAN AFFECT THE BODY...
BUT THE RANGE OF NEN ABILITIES...
...ISN'T AS NARROW AS YOU THINK.
AND OVERWHELMING VISUAL PROOF...
...IS THE MOST EFFECTIVE PERSUASION!!
I COULD SHOW HIM MY DOUBLES...
WOW...
BUT THE RISK IS HIGHER I'D COME UNDER SUSPICION AS THE ASSASSIN TO PRINCE MOMOZE.
I CAN'T GUARANTEE "ANYONE WITHIN TWO WEEKS" LIKE KURAPIKA...
LOOM
...BUT FOR PEOPLE WITH APTITUDE, IT WOULD BE COMPARATIVELY EASY TO DOUBLE PHYSICAL ABILITIES IN A MONTH.
I-I CAN'T BELIEVE IT.
HOW...

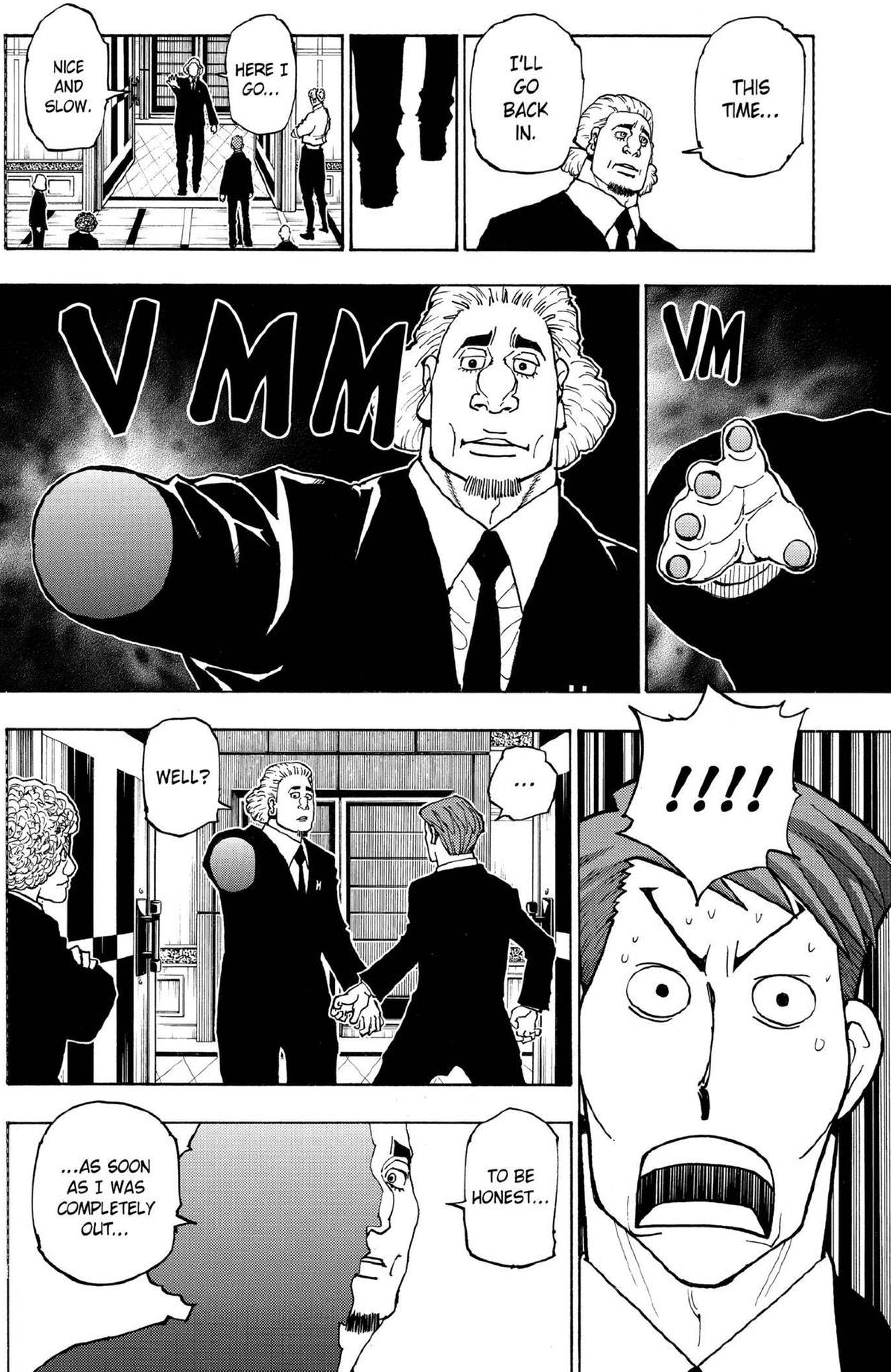

BWO——————NNG
HOW CAN THERE BE SOMEONE SO BEAUTIFUL ?!
TA—DA
THE BEAUTIFUL YET SINISTER LINE FROM THE TRAPEZIUS MUSCLE TO THE DELTOID!!
TA———DA
HIS HAMSTRING!! ITS QUIET YET TYRANNICAL BULGE!!
…
HE'S AT A LOSS FOR WORDS.
YUP.
YOU CAN CHOOSE WHO GETS TAUGHT.
WHY DON'T WE BEGIN RIGHT NOW?
N-NO!
THAT WON'T DO!!

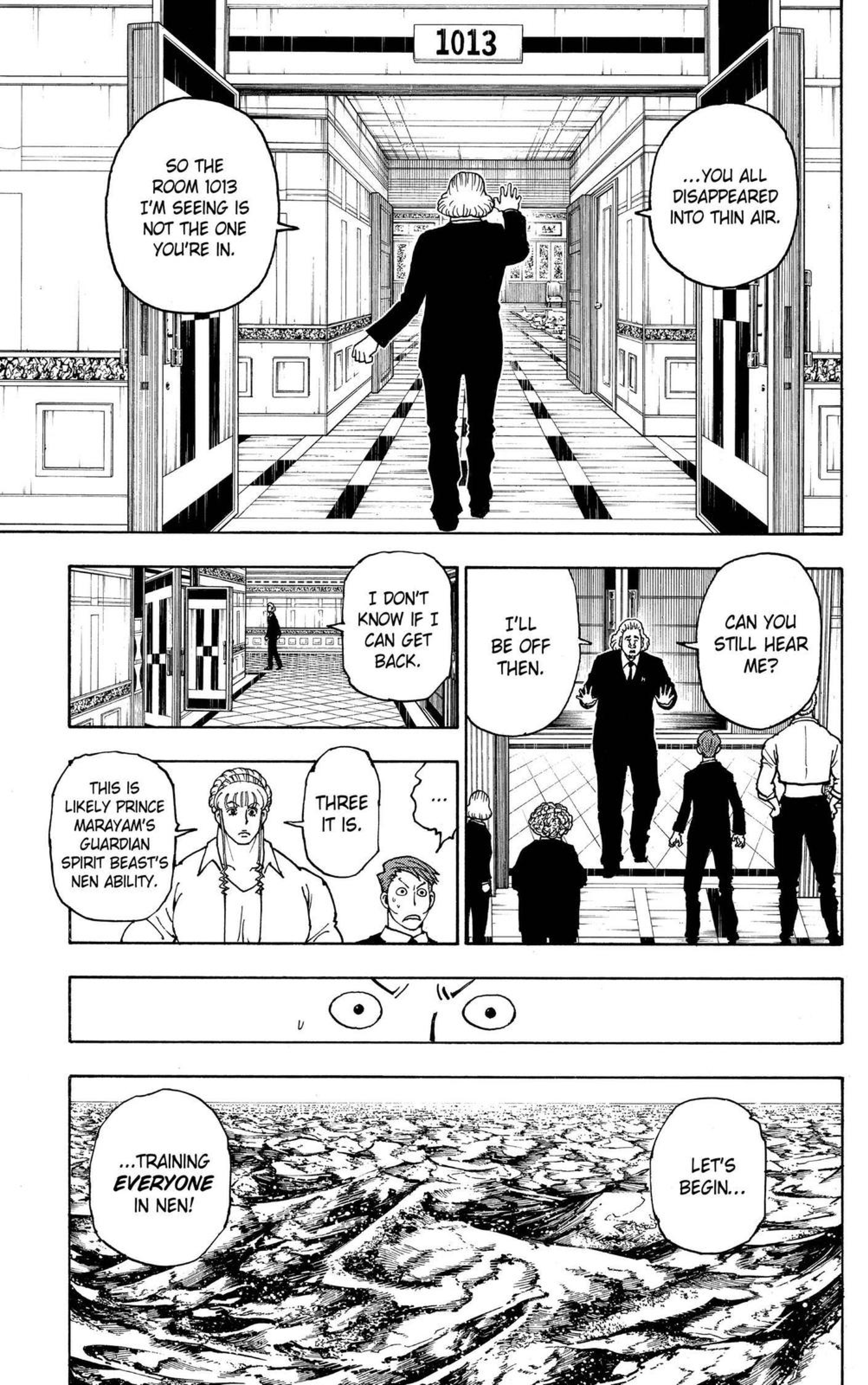

ME!!
TEACH ME NEN... PLEASE!!
I-IT'LL SAVE TIME IF YOU TEACH ME DIRECTLY.
WHETHER WHAT YOU SAY IS TRUTH OR FICTION.
HEH
YOU'RE RIGHT. I'LL CHANGE SHIFTS TO MATCH YOURS!
GUARDING THE QUEEN AND PRINCE AT THE SAME TIME WOULD KILL TWO BIRDS WITH ONE STONE.
...
YES...
OH...
UM...
KOFF
BELEREINTE WILL GO TO ROOM 1014 AS SCHEDULED!
DON'T GET ME WRONG! I HAVEN'T ACCEPTED NEN, AND IT'S NOT TO CHECK OUTSIDE!
AHEM
IT'S STRICTLY TO FIND OUT WHAT THE OTHER PRINCES ARE DOING!
YES.
YES.
ALL RIGHT, IT'S EARLY, BUT WE COULD CHECK OUTSIDE...
OH!
HOLD ON!
I'LL GO WITH YOU!
DON'T GET ME WRONG! I STILL DON'T BELIEVE WHAT KURAPIKA SAID.
OKAY, OKAY.

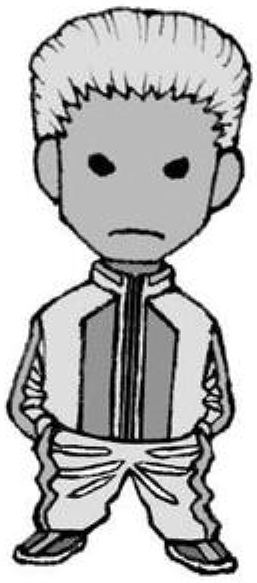

1013
1013
1013


WELL?
HM...
IT DOESN'T LOOK DIFFERENT.
AND IT'S NOT LIKE THERE'S AN INVISIBLE WALL.
SHALL WE REQUEST A HUNTER FROM 1014...
...TO COME HERE?
WHAT FOR?
TK TK
WHAT KURAPIKA SAID WAS BOGUS!
SHP
?!
BEING ENCLOSED IN A NEN SPACE, THE BOUNDARY WITH THE REAL WORLD CAN BE CLASSIFIED INTO THREE CATEGORIES...
1) IMPERMEABLE. 2) PERMEABLE. 3) ONE-WAY.
IF THERE ARE NO VISIBLE CHANGES, MOST ARE NUMBER 3, AND YOU CAN'T GET BACK ONCE YOU LEAVE.
WHAT...
SUCH POWERFUL HARMONY OF DIGITAL FLEXORS AND EXTENSORS!!
ARE YOU LISTENING?
O-OF COURSE! BUT THE WHOLE THING IS FLAWED!
BELEREINTE JUST WENT OUT NORMALLY!!

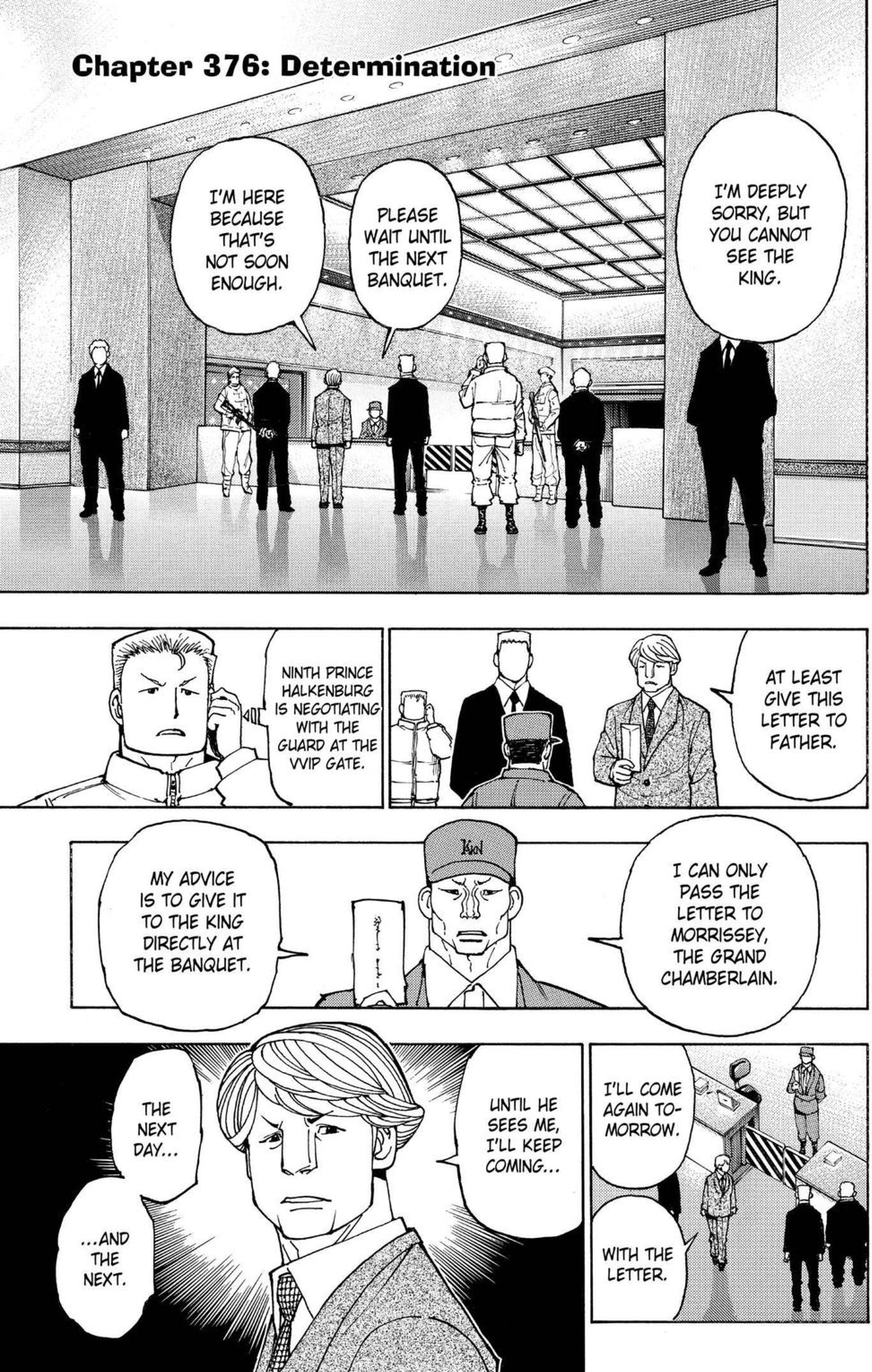

THE DETERMINATION OF BEING "IN" OR "OUT" OF A SPACE...
...IS MOST OFTEN CALCULATED WHEN THE ENTIRE BODY CROSSES THE BOUNDARY.
CAPTAIN VERGEI.
HMPH!
I'LL ASK AGAIN.
MAY I GO?
...
FINE, GO!
BUT DON'T GET ME WRONG!
QUIET, CAPTAIN.
THE PROOF IS IN THE PUDDING.
SEEING IS BELIEVING.
1013
SHF
I'M COMPLETELY OUTSIDE.
CAN YOU SEE ME?
1013
YES.
AS NORMAL AS CAN BE.

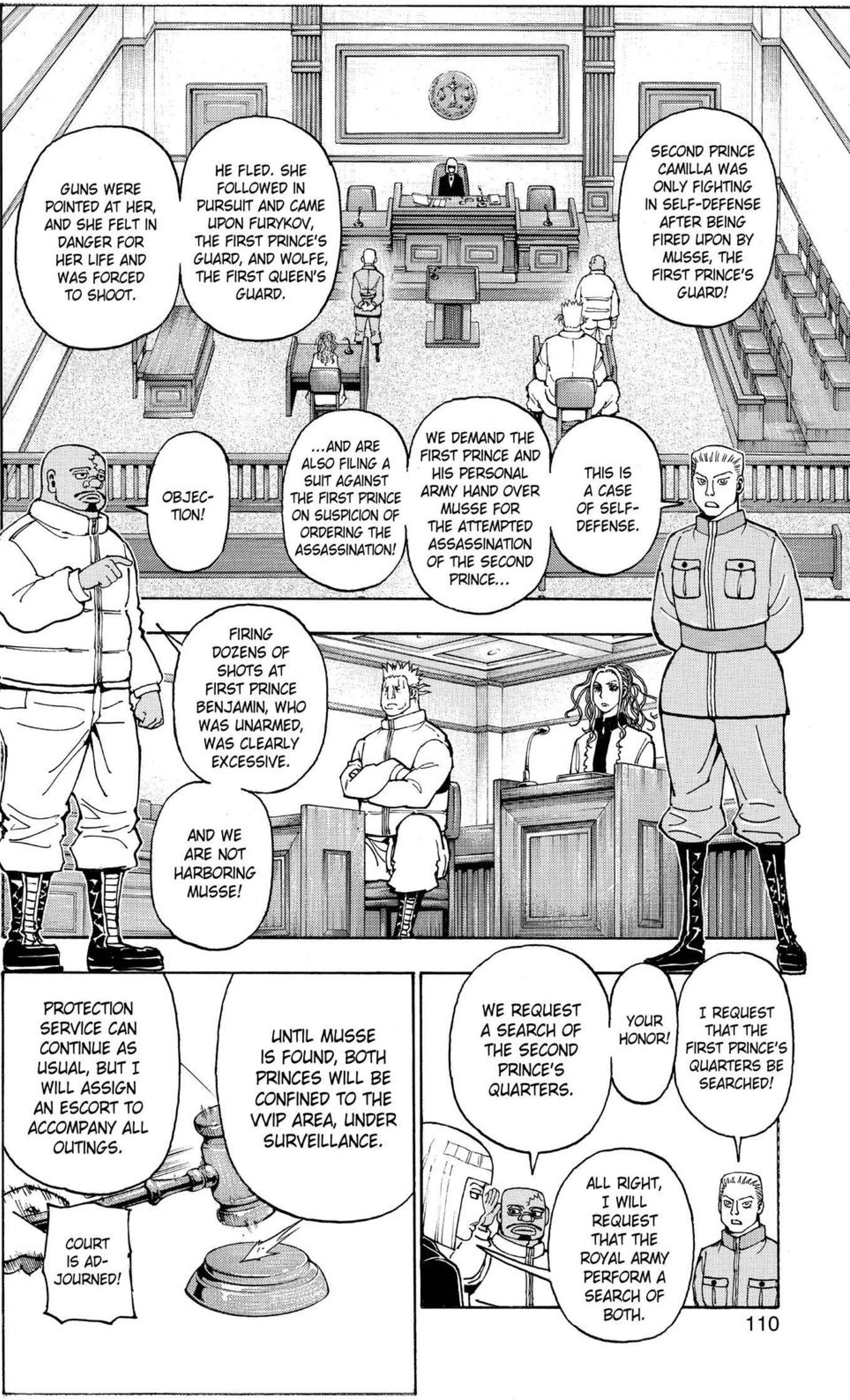

THIS TIME...
I'LL GO BACK IN.
HERE I GO...
NICE AND SLOW.
VM
VMM
!!!!
...
WELL?
TO BE HONEST...
...AS SOON AS I WAS COMPLETELY OUT...

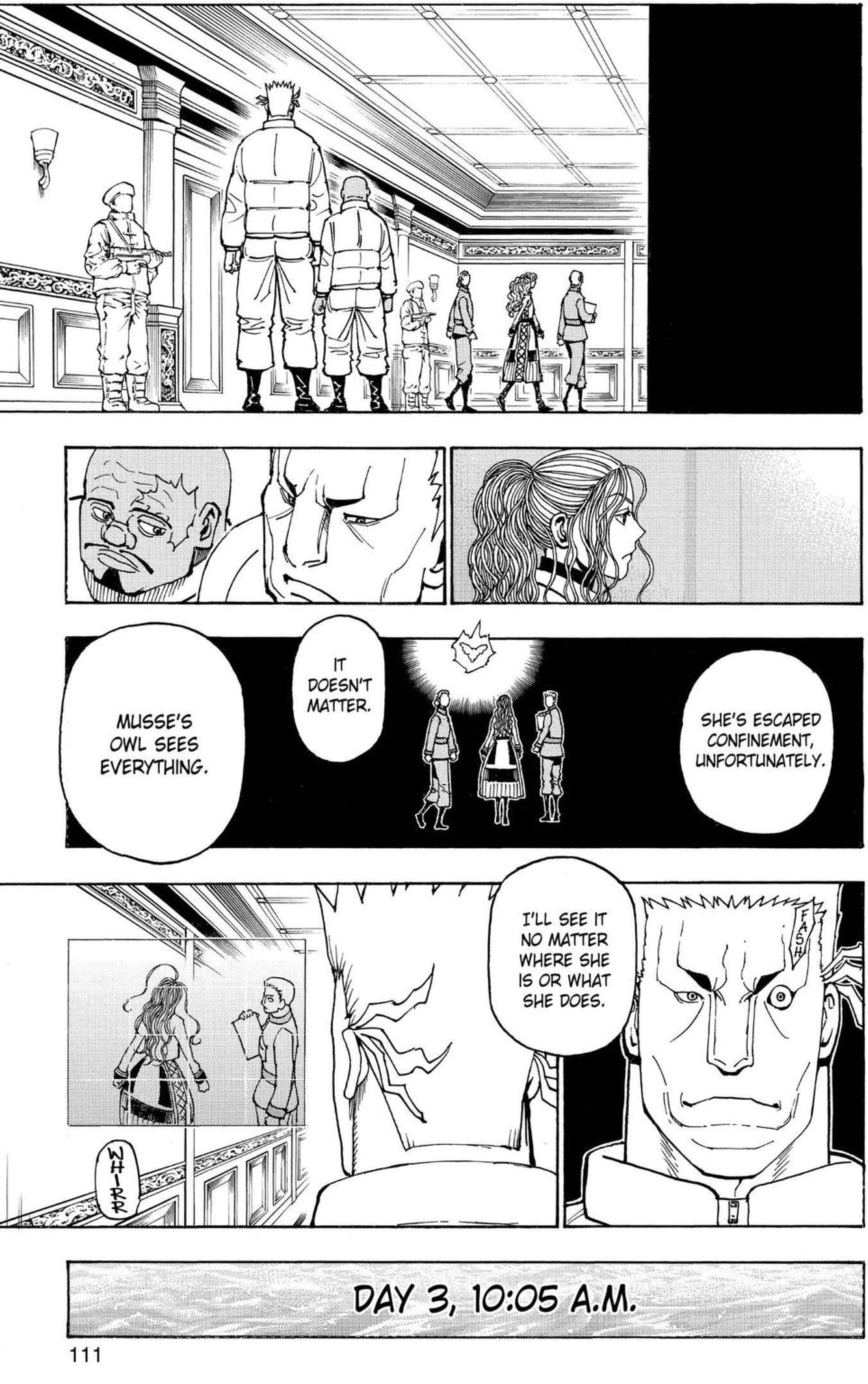

1013
...YOU ALL DISAPPEARED INTO THIN AIR.
SO THE ROOM 1013 I'M SEEING IS NOT THE ONE YOU'RE IN.
CAN YOU STILL HEAR ME?
I'LL BE OFF THEN.
I DON'T KNOW IF I CAN GET BACK.
...
THREE IT IS.
THIS IS LIKELY PRINCE MARAYAM'S GUARDIAN SPIRIT BEAST'S NEN ABILITY.
LET'S BEGIN...
...TRAINING **EVERYONE** IN NEN!

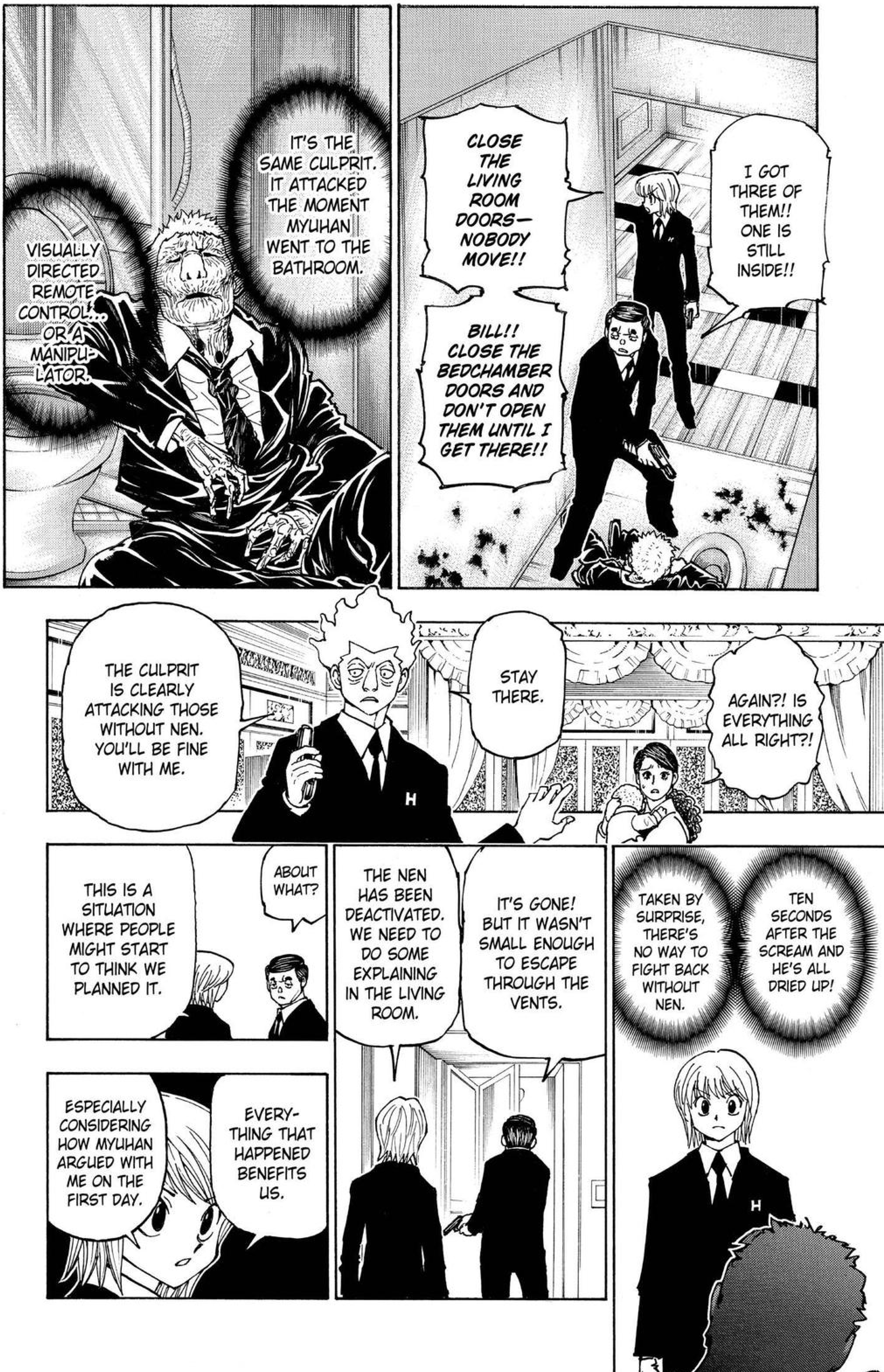


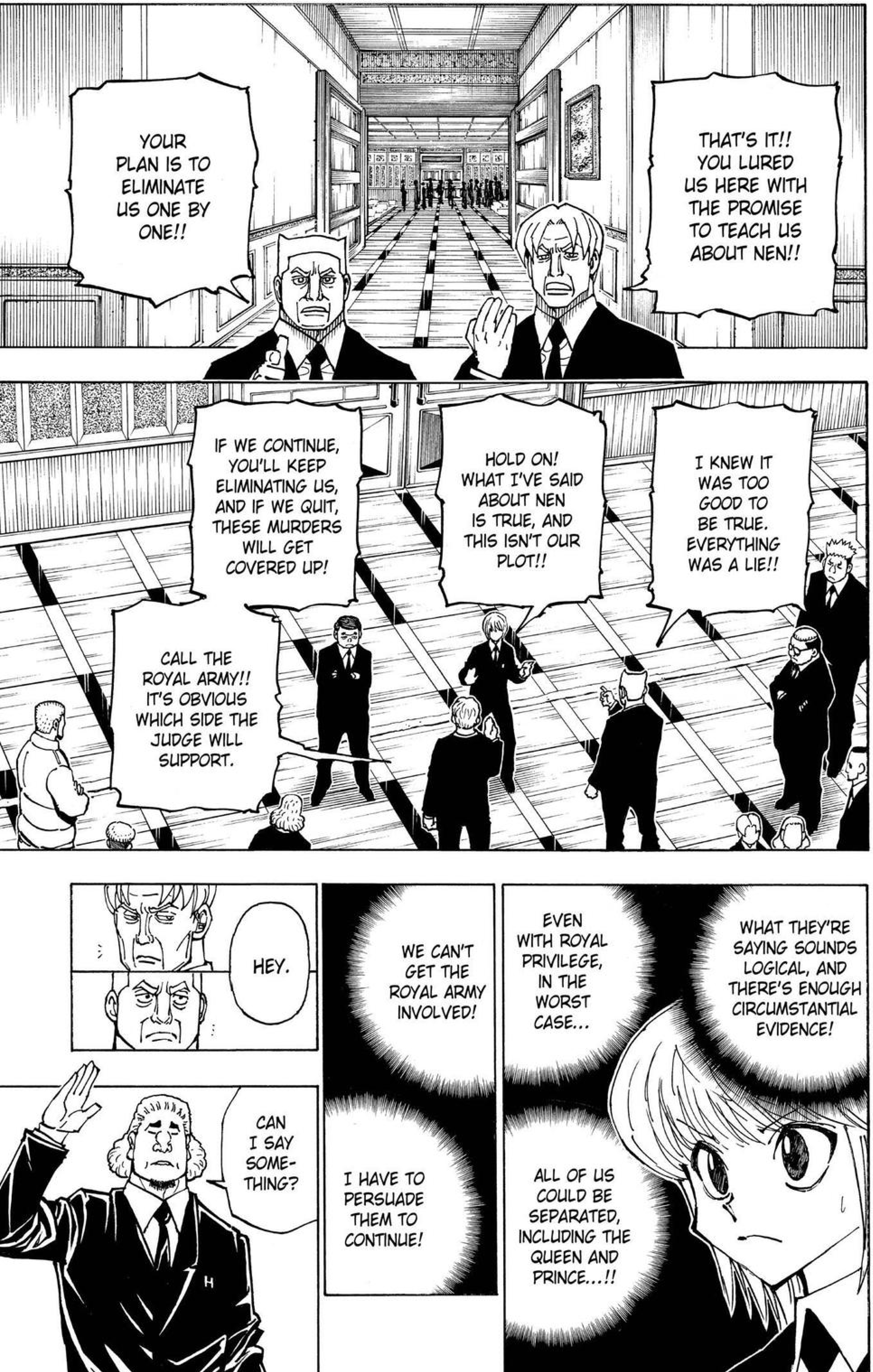
Chapter 376: Determination

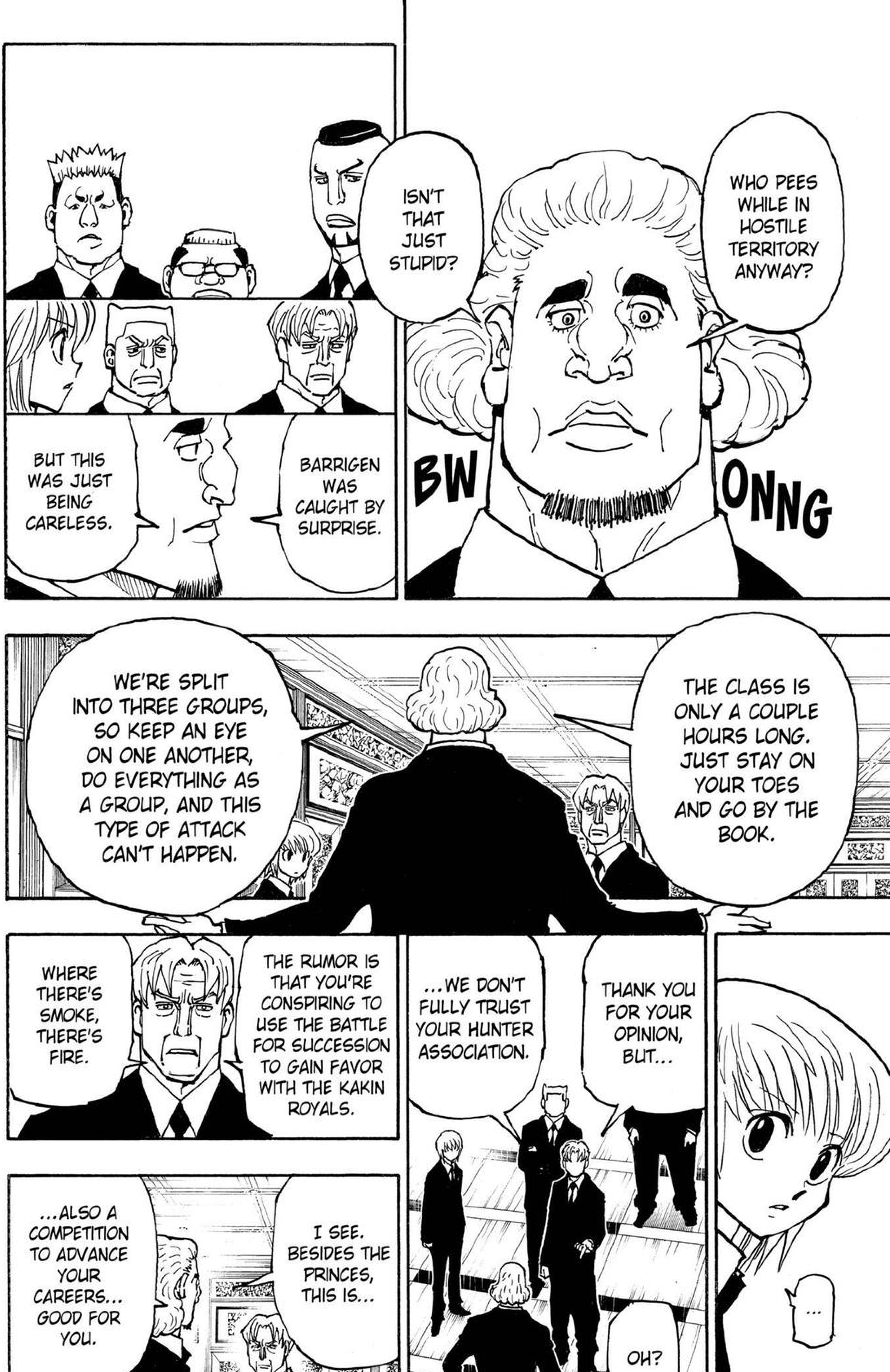

I'M DEEPLY SORRY, BUT YOU CANNOT SEE THE KING.
PLEASE WAIT UNTIL THE NEXT BANQUET.
I'M HERE BECAUSE THAT'S NOT SOON ENOUGH.
AT LEAST GIVE THIS LETTER TO FATHER.
NINTH PRINCE HALKENBURG IS NEGOTIATING WITH THE GUARD AT THE VVIP GATE.
I CAN ONLY PASS THE LETTER TO MORRISSEY, THE GRAND CHAMBERLAIN.
MY ADVICE IS TO GIVE IT TO THE KING DIRECTLY AT THE BANQUET.
I'LL COME AGAIN TO-MORROW.
WITH THE LETTER.
UNTIL HE SEES ME, I'LL KEEP COMING...
THE NEXT DAY...
...AND THE NEXT.

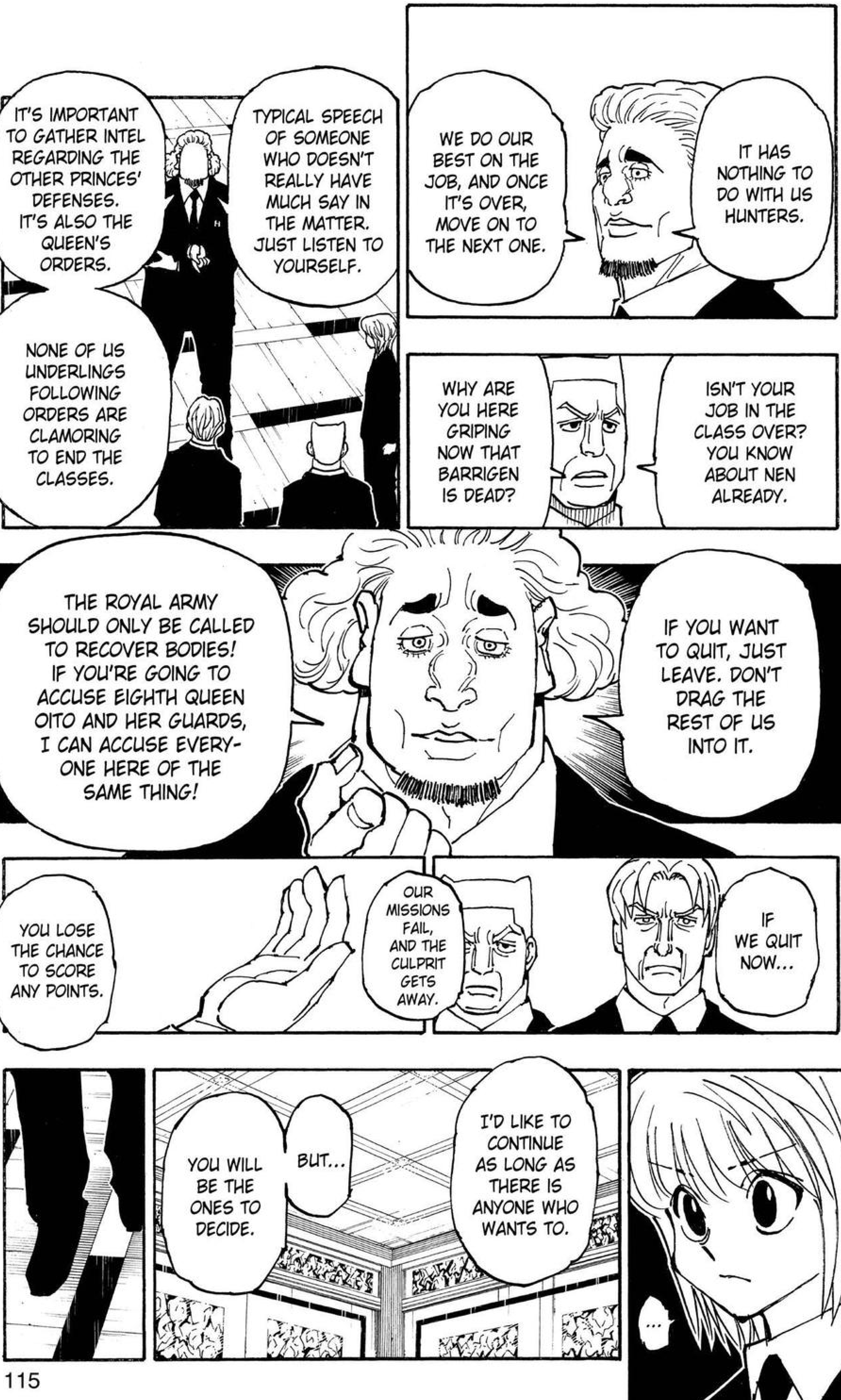

SECOND PRINCE CAMILLA WAS ONLY FIGHTING IN SELF-DEFENSE AFTER BEING FIRED UPON BY MUSSE, THE FIRST PRINCE'S GUARD!
HE FLED. SHE FOLLOWED IN PURSUIT AND CAME UPON FURYKOV, THE FIRST PRINCE'S GUARD, AND WOLFE, THE FIRST QUEEN'S GUARD.
GUNS WERE POINTED AT HER, AND SHE FELT IN DANGER FOR HER LIFE AND WAS FORCED TO SHOOT.
THIS IS A CASE OF SELF-DEFENSE.
WE DEMAND THE FIRST PRINCE AND HIS PERSONAL ARMY HAND OVER MUSSE FOR THE ATTEMPTED ASSASSINATION OF THE SECOND PRINCE...
...AND ARE ALSO FILING A SUIT AGAINST THE FIRST PRINCE ON SUSPICION OF ORDERING THE ASSASSINATION!
OBJECTION!
FIRING DOZENS OF SHOTS AT FIRST PRINCE BENJAMIN, WHO WAS UNARMED, WAS CLEARLY EXCESSIVE.
AND WE ARE NOT HARBORING MUSSE!
I REQUEST THAT THE FIRST PRINCE'S QUARTERS BE SEARCHED!
YOUR HONOR!
WE REQUEST A SEARCH OF THE SECOND PRINCE'S QUARTERS.
ALL RIGHT, I WILL REQUEST THAT THE ROYAL ARMY PERFORM A SEARCH OF BOTH.
UNTIL MUSSE IS FOUND, BOTH PRINCES WILL BE CONFINED TO THE VVIP AREA, UNDER SURVEILLANCE.
PROTECTION SERVICE CAN CONTINUE AS USUAL, BUT I WILL ASSIGN AN ESCORT TO ACCOMPANY ALL OUTINGS.
COURT IS ADJOURNED!

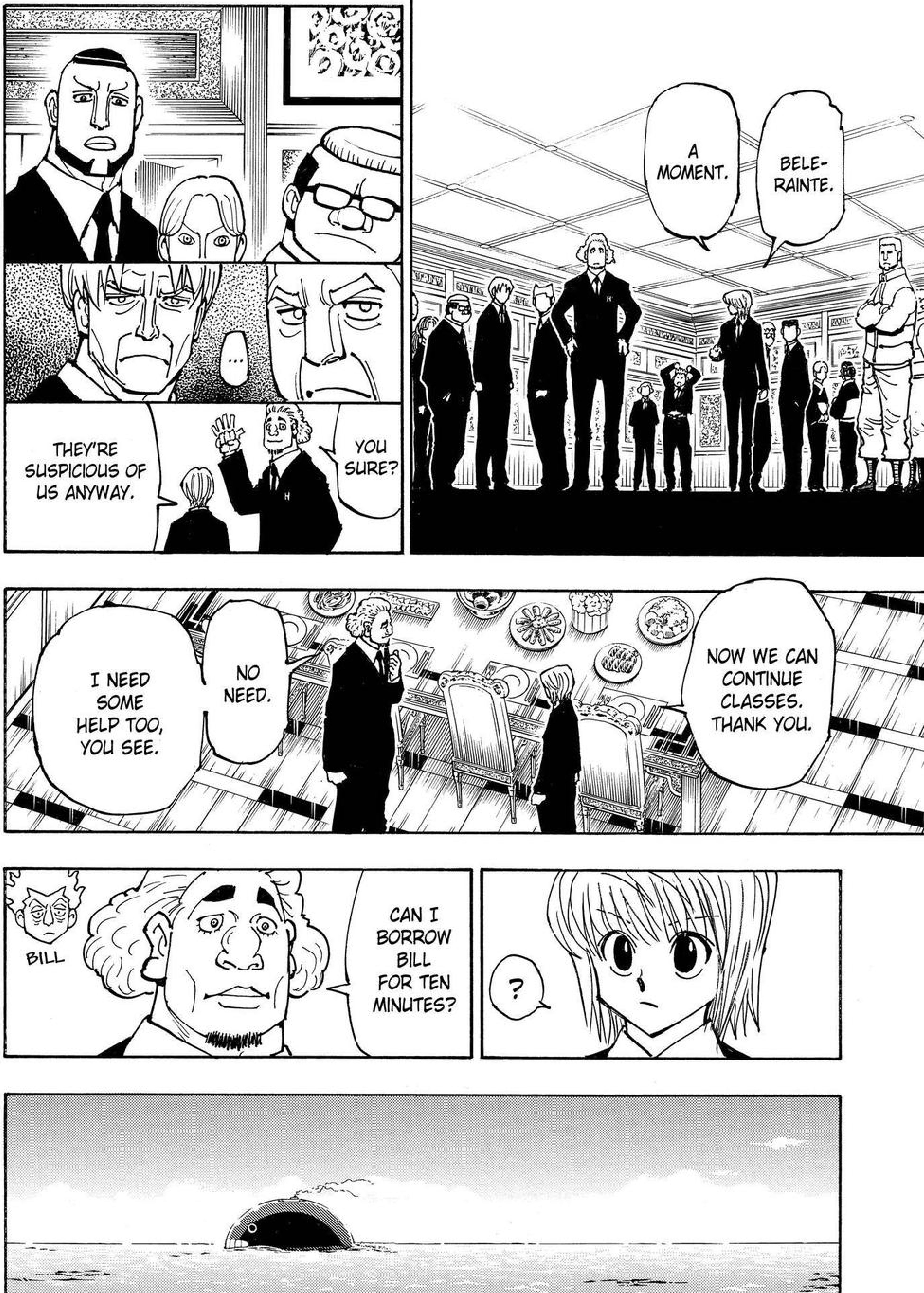

SHE'S ESCAPED CONFINEMENT, UNFORTUNATELY.
IT DOESN'T MATTER.
MUSSE'S OWL SEES EVERYTHING.
FASH
I'LL SEE IT NO MATTER WHERE SHE IS OR WHAT SHE DOES.
WHIRR
DAY 3, 10:05 A.M.

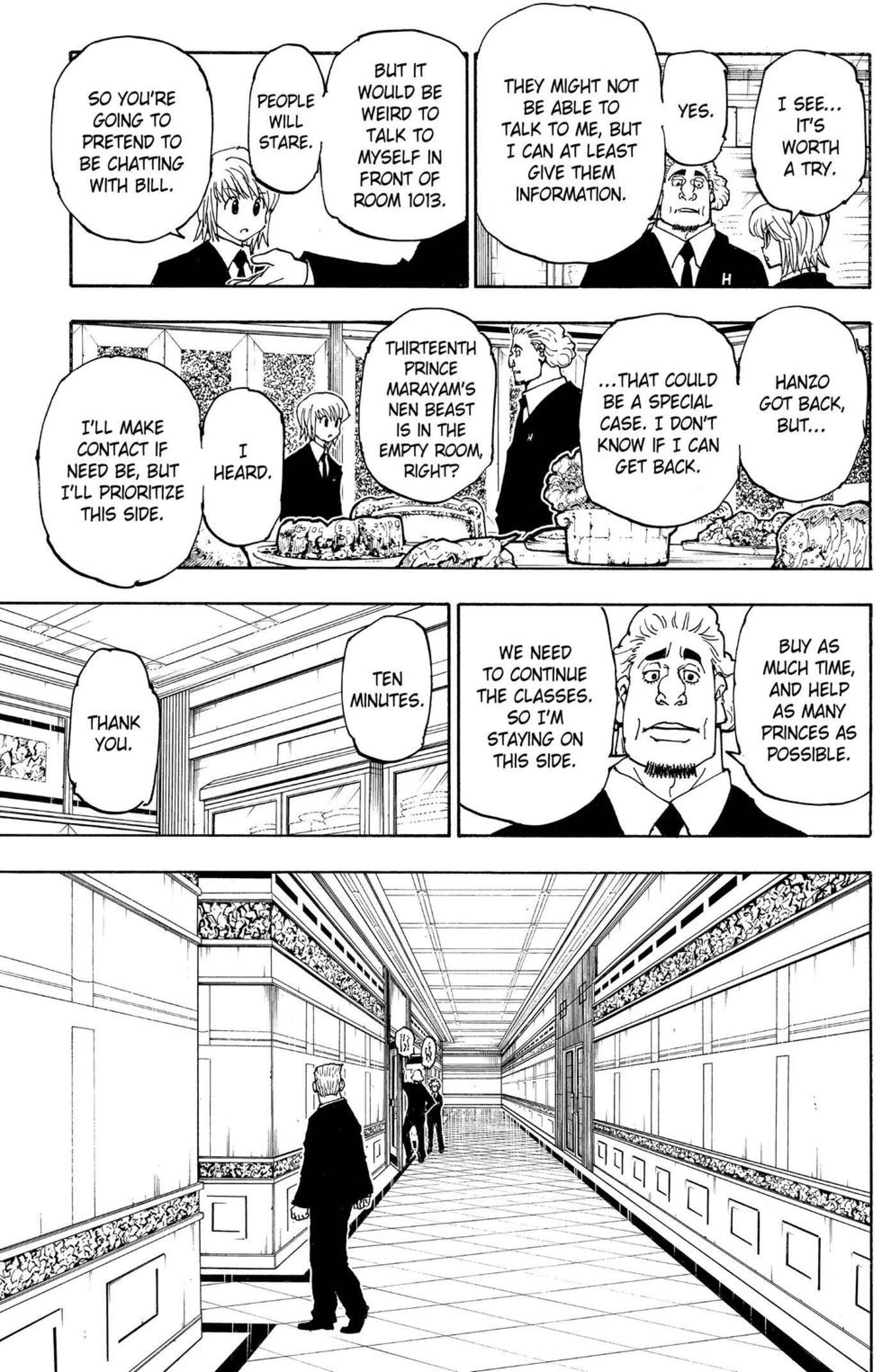

I GOT THREE OF THEM!! ONE IS STILL INSIDE!!
CLOSE THE LIVING ROOM DOORS— NOBODY MOVE!!
BILL!! CLOSE THE BEDCHAMBER DOORS AND DON'T OPEN THEM UNTIL I GET THERE!!
IT'S THE SAME CULPRIT. IT ATTACKED THE MOMENT MYUHAN WENT TO THE BATHROOM.
VISUALLY DIRECTED REMOTE CONTROL... OR A MANIPULATOR.
AGAIN?! IS EVERYTHING ALL RIGHT?!
STAY THERE.
THE CULPRIT IS CLEARLY ATTACKING THOSE WITHOUT NEN. YOU'LL BE FINE WITH ME.
TEN SECONDS AFTER THE SCREAM AND HE'S ALL DRIED UP!
TAKEN BY SURPRISE, THERE'S NO WAY TO FIGHT BACK WITHOUT NEN.
IT'S GONE! BUT IT WASN'T SMALL ENOUGH TO ESCAPE THROUGH THE VENTS.
THE NEN HAS BEEN DEACTIVATED. WE NEED TO DO SOME EXPLAINING IN THE LIVING ROOM.
ABOUT WHAT?
THIS IS A SITUATION WHERE PEOPLE MIGHT START TO THINK WE PLANNED IT.
EVERYTHING THAT HAPPENED BENEFITS US.
ESPECIALLY CONSIDERING HOW MYUHAN ARGUED WITH ME ON THE FIRST DAY.

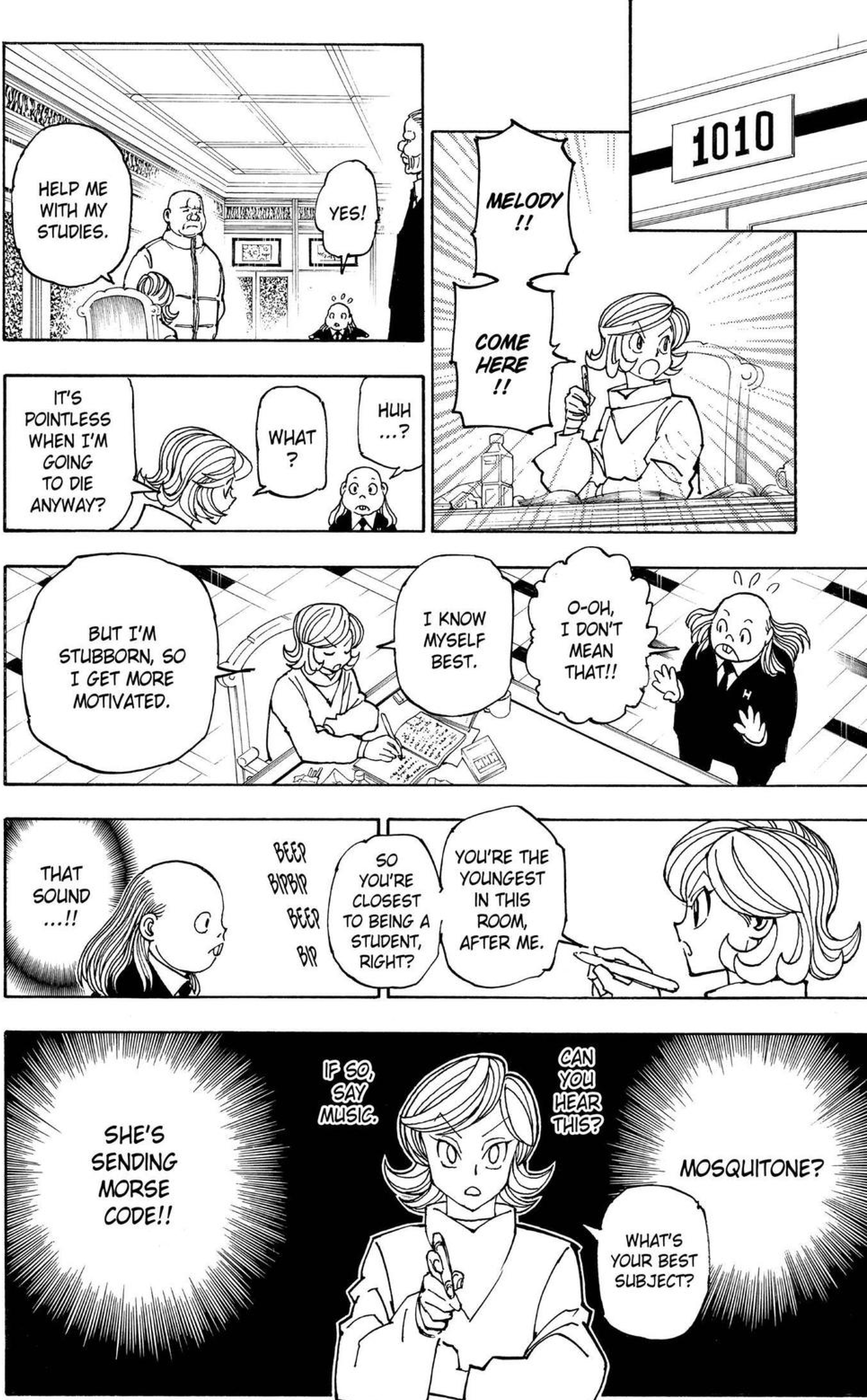

THAT'S IT!! YOU LURED US HERE WITH THE PROMISE TO TEACH US ABOUT NEN!!
YOUR PLAN IS TO ELIMINATE US ONE BY ONE!!
I KNEW IT WAS TOO GOOD TO BE TRUE. EVERYTHING WAS A LIE!!
HOLD ON! WHAT I'VE SAID ABOUT NEN IS TRUE, AND THIS ISN'T OUR PLOT!!
IF WE CONTINUE, YOU'LL KEEP ELIMINATING US, AND IF WE QUIT, THESE MURDERS WILL GET COVERED UP!
CALL THE ROYAL ARMY!! IT'S OBVIOUS WHICH SIDE THE JUDGE WILL SUPPORT.
WHAT THEY'RE SAYING SOUNDS LOGICAL, AND THERE'S ENOUGH CIRCUMSTANTIAL EVIDENCE!
EVEN WITH ROYAL PRIVILEGE, IN THE WORST CASE...
ALL OF US COULD BE SEPARATED, INCLUDING THE QUEEN AND PRINCE...!!
WE CAN'T GET THE ROYAL ARMY INVOLVED!
I HAVE TO PERSUADE THEM TO CONTINUE!
HEY.
CAN I SAY SOME-THING?

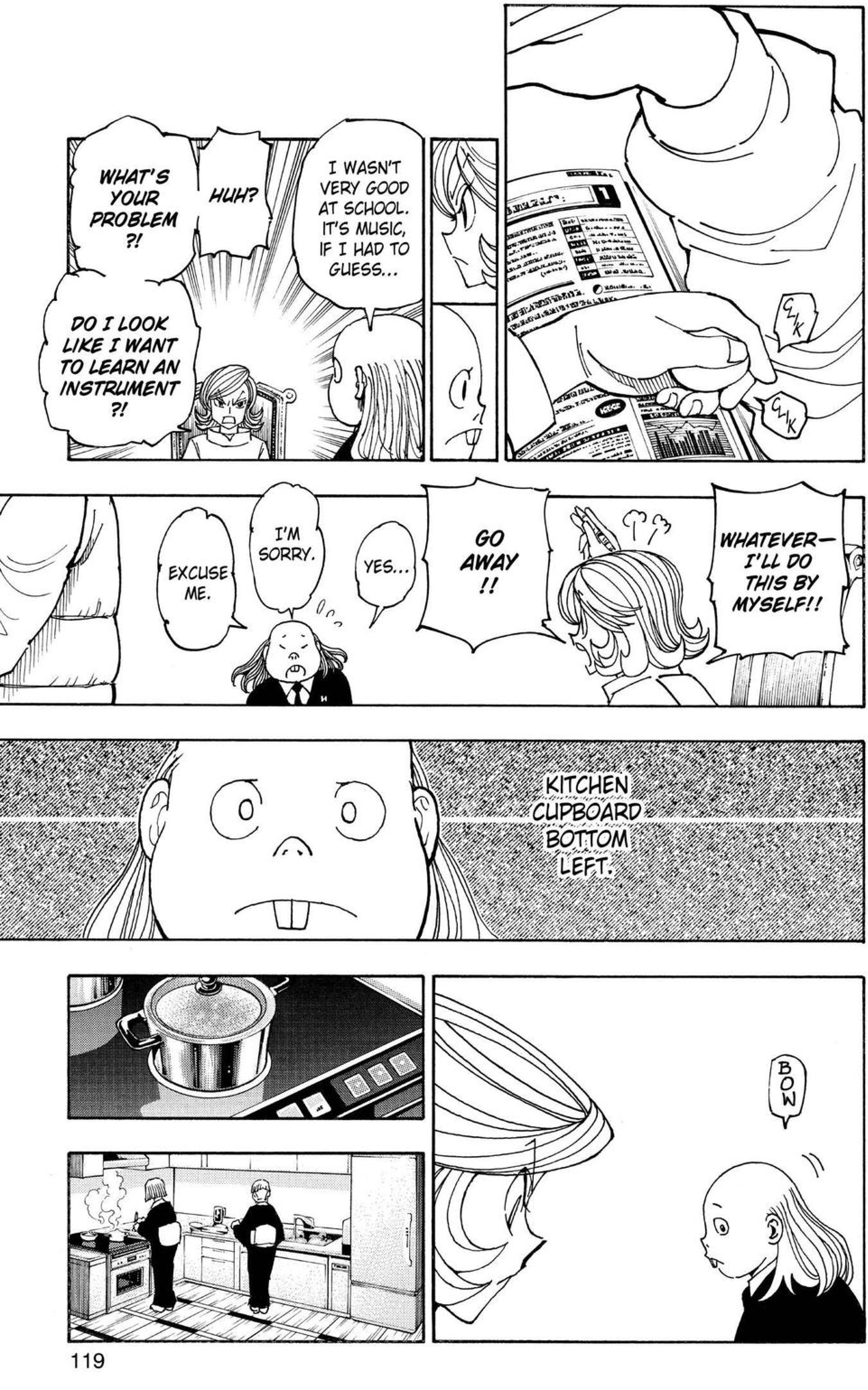

WHO PEES WHILE IN HOSTILE TERRITORY ANYWAY?
ISN'T THAT JUST STUPID?
BWONNG
BARRIGEN WAS CAUGHT BY SURPRISE.
BUT THIS WAS JUST BEING CARELESS.
THE CLASS IS ONLY A COUPLE HOURS LONG. JUST STAY ON YOUR TOES AND GO BY THE BOOK.
WE'RE SPLIT INTO THREE GROUPS, SO KEEP AN EYE ON ONE ANOTHER, DO EVERYTHING AS A GROUP, AND THIS TYPE OF ATTACK CAN'T HAPPEN.
...
THANK YOU FOR YOUR OPINION, BUT...
...WE DON'T FULLY TRUST YOUR HUNTER ASSOCIATION.
OH?
THE RUMOR IS THAT YOU'RE CONSPIRING TO USE THE BATTLE FOR SUCCESSION TO GAIN FAVOR WITH THE KAKIN ROYALS.
WHERE THERE'S SMOKE, THERE'S FIRE.
I SEE. BESIDES THE PRINCES, THIS IS...
...ALSO A COMPETITION TO ADVANCE YOUR CAREERS... GOOD FOR YOU.

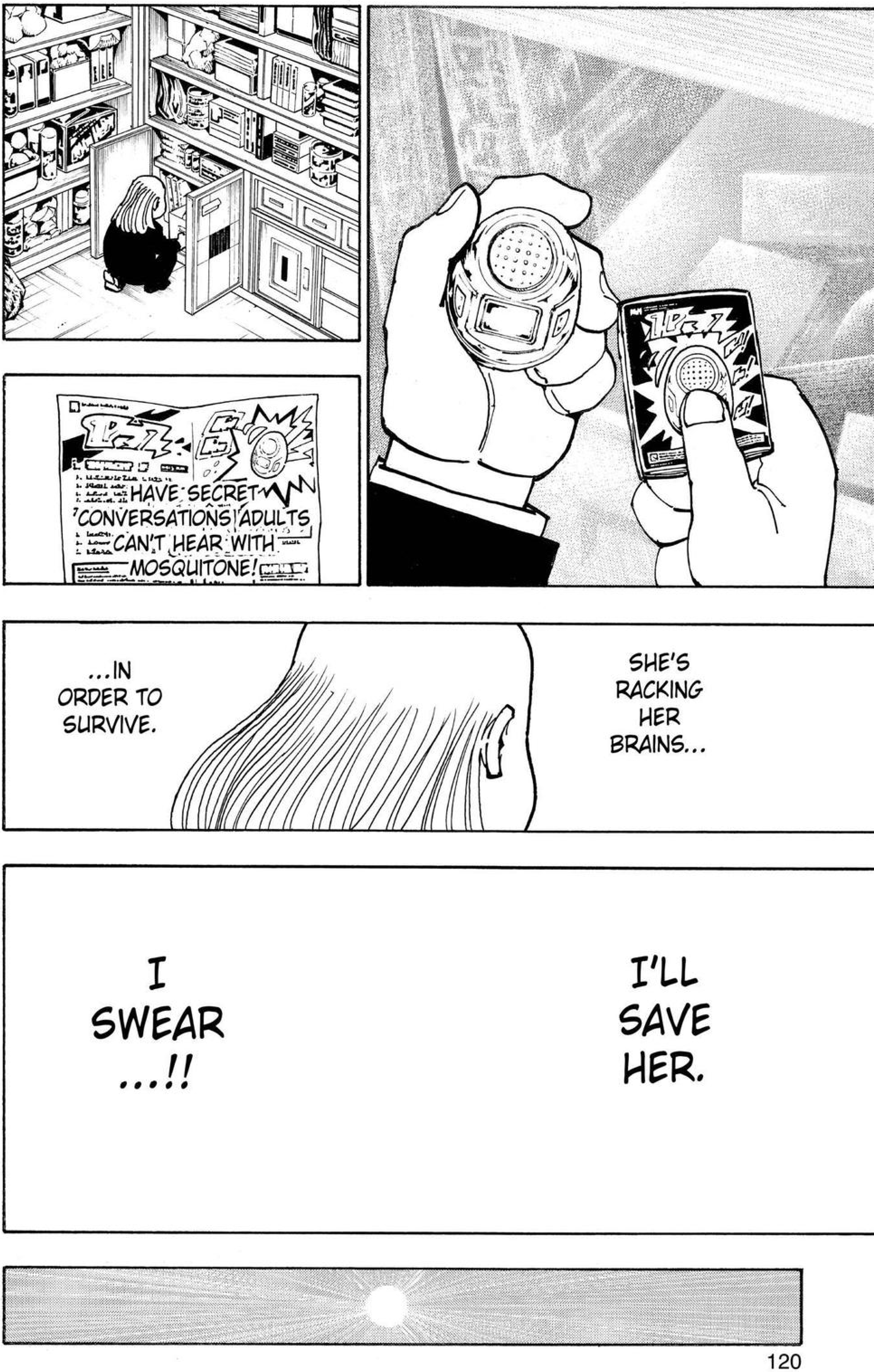

IT HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH US HUNTERS.
WE DO OUR BEST ON THE JOB, AND ONCE IT'S OVER, MOVE ON TO THE NEXT ONE.
TYPICAL SPEECH OF SOMEONE WHO DOESN'T REALLY HAVE MUCH SAY IN THE MATTER. JUST LISTEN TO YOURSELF.
IT'S IMPORTANT TO GATHER INTEL REGARDING THE OTHER PRINCES' DEFENSES. IT'S ALSO THE QUEEN'S ORDERS.
NONE OF US UNDERLINGS FOLLOWING ORDERS ARE CLAMORING TO END THE CLASSES.
ISN'T YOUR JOB IN THE CLASS OVER? YOU KNOW ABOUT NEN ALREADY.
WHY ARE YOU HERE GRIPING NOW THAT BARRIGEN IS DEAD?
IF YOU WANT TO QUIT, JUST LEAVE. DON'T DRAG THE REST OF US INTO IT.
THE ROYAL ARMY SHOULD ONLY BE CALLED TO RECOVER BODIES! IF YOU'RE GOING TO ACCUSE EIGHTH QUEEN OITO AND HER GUARDS, I CAN ACCUSE EVERYONE HERE OF THE SAME THING!
IF WE QUIT NOW...
OUR MISSIONS FAIL, AND THE CULPRIT GETS AWAY.
YOU LOSE THE CHANCE TO SCORE ANY POINTS.
...
I'D LIKE TO CONTINUE AS LONG AS THERE IS ANYONE WHO WANTS TO.
BUT...
YOU WILL BE THE ONES TO DECIDE.

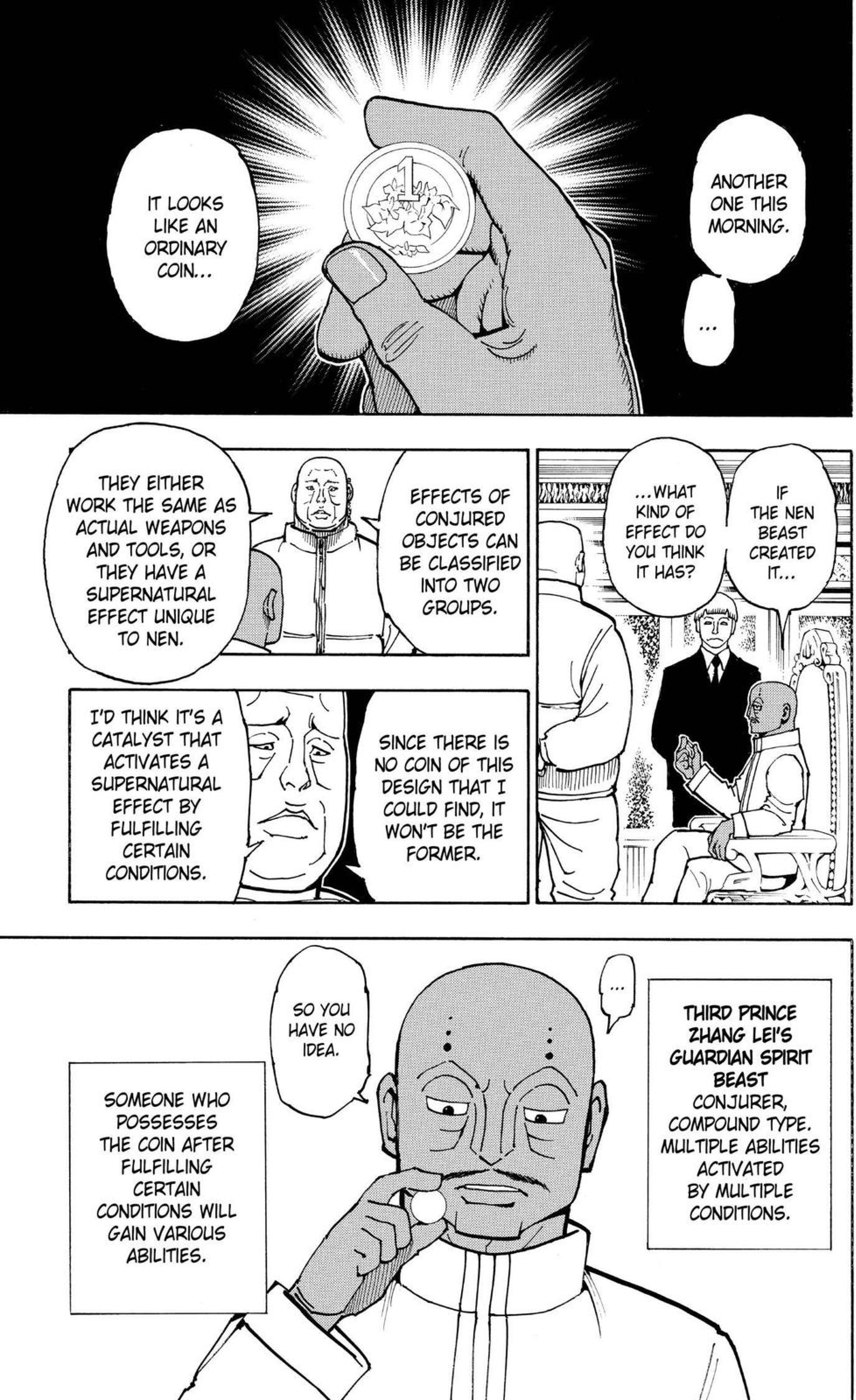

BELE-RAINTE.
A MOMENT.
...
YOU SURE?
THEY'RE SUSPICIOUS OF US ANYWAY.
NOW WE CAN CONTINUE CLASSES. THANK YOU.
NO NEED.
I NEED SOME HELP TOO, YOU SEE.
?
CAN I BORROW BILL FOR TEN MINUTES?
BILL

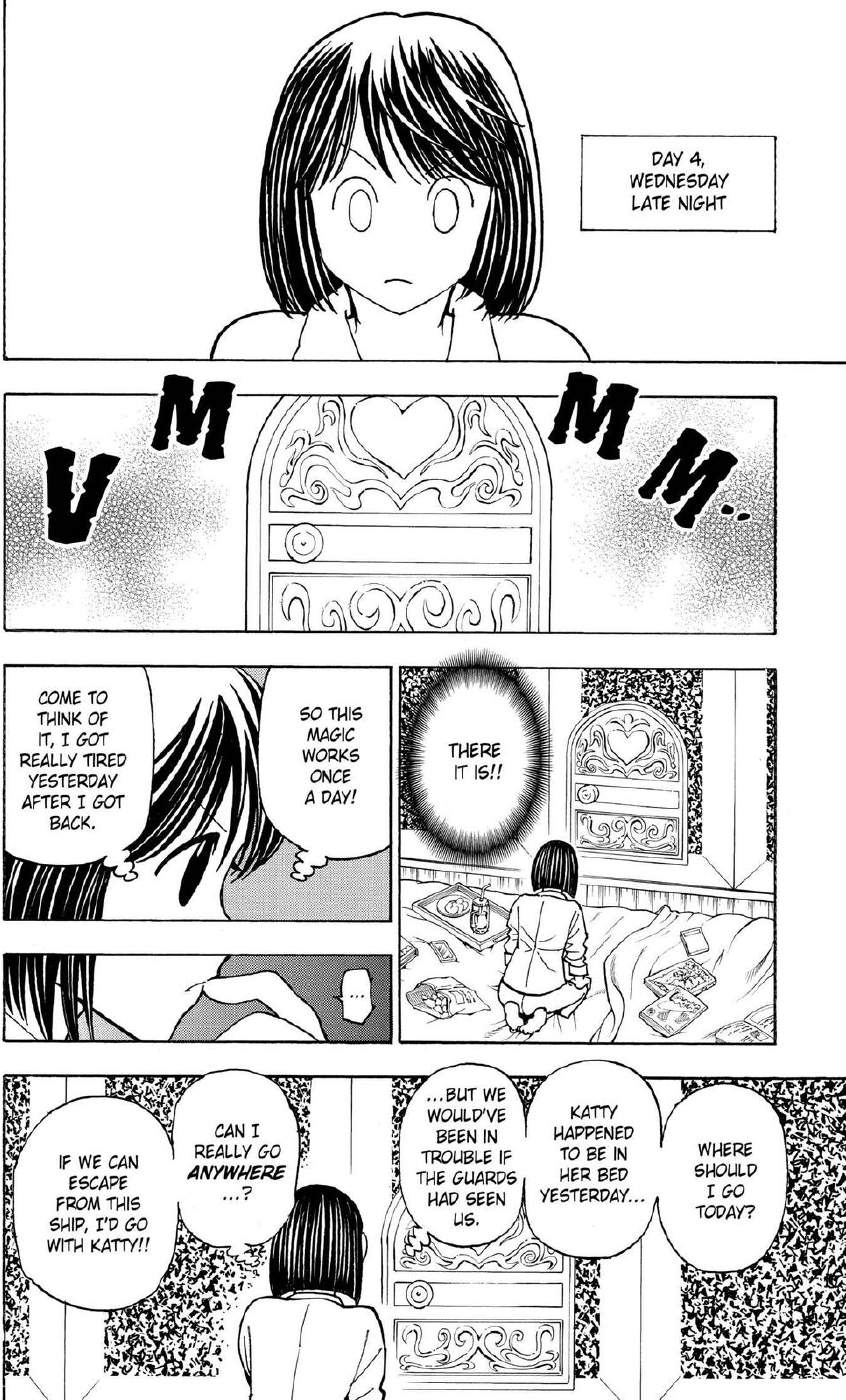

I SEE... IT'S WORTH A TRY.
YES.
THEY MIGHT NOT BE ABLE TO TALK TO ME, BUT I CAN AT LEAST GIVE THEM INFORMATION.
BUT IT WOULD BE WEIRD TO TALK TO MYSELF IN FRONT OF ROOM 1013.
PEOPLE WILL STARE.
SO YOU'RE GOING TO PRETEND TO BE CHATTING WITH BILL.
HANZO GOT BACK, BUT...
...THAT COULD BE A SPECIAL CASE. I DON'T KNOW IF I CAN GET BACK.
THIRTEENTH PRINCE MARAYAM'S NEN BEAST IS IN THE EMPTY ROOM, RIGHT?
I HEARD.
I'LL MAKE CONTACT IF NEED BE, BUT I'LL PRIORITIZE THIS SIDE.
BUY AS MUCH TIME, AND HELP AS MANY PRINCES AS POSSIBLE.
WE NEED TO CONTINUE THE CLASSES. SO I'M STAYING ON THIS SIDE.
TEN MINUTES.
THANK YOU.

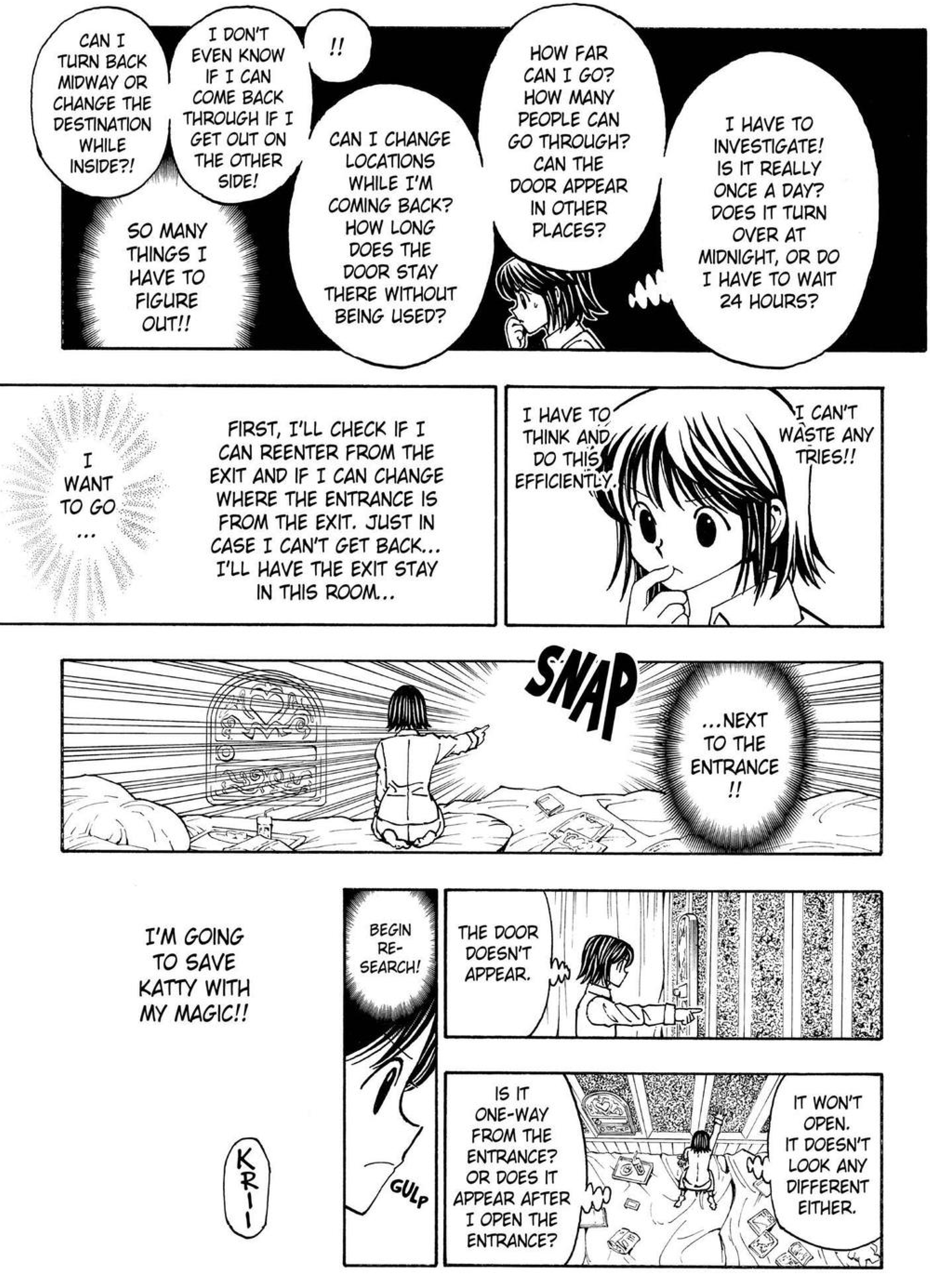

1010
MELODY!!
COME HERE!!
HELP ME WITH MY STUDIES.
YES!
HUH...?
WHAT?
IT'S POINTLESS WHEN I'M GOING TO DIE ANYWAY?
O-OH, I DON'T MEAN THAT!!
I KNOW MYSELF BEST.
BUT I'M STUBBORN, SO I GET MORE MOTIVATED.
YOU'RE THE YOUNGEST IN THIS ROOM, AFTER ME.
SO YOU'RE CLOSEST TO BEING A STUDENT, RIGHT?
BEEP BIPBIP BEEP BIP
THAT SOUND...!!
WHAT'S YOUR BEST SUBJECT?
MOSQUITONE?
CAN YOU HEAR THIS?
IF SO, SAY MUSIC.
SHE'S SENDING MORSE CODE!!

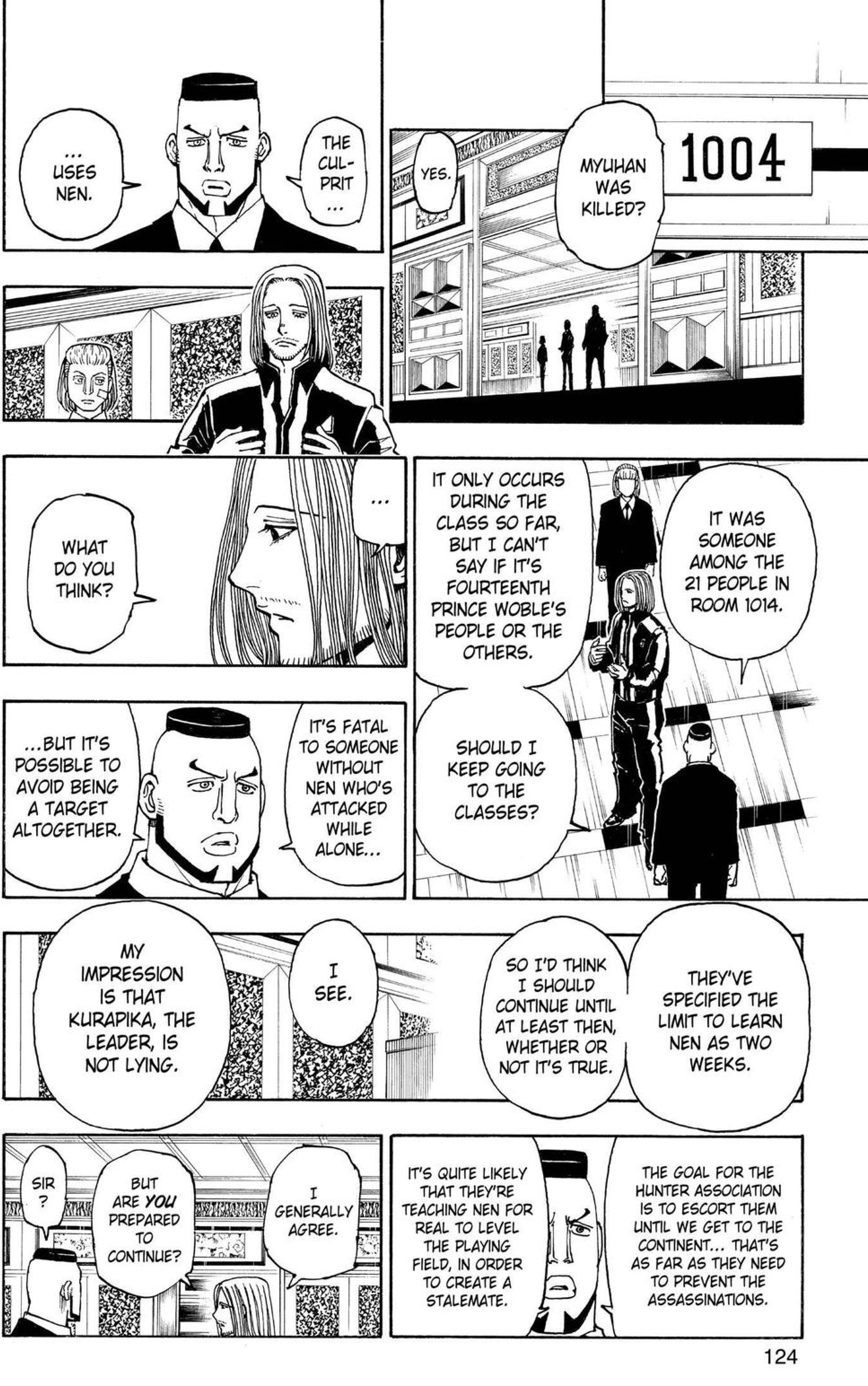

CLIK
CLIK
I WASN'T VERY GOOD AT SCHOOL. IT'S MUSIC, IF I HAD TO GUESS...
HUH?
WHAT'S YOUR PROBLEM ?!
DO I LOOK LIKE I WANT TO LEARN AN INSTRUMENT ?!
WHATEVER— I'LL DO THIS BY MYSELF!!
GO AWAY !!
YES...
I'M SORRY.
EXCUSE ME.
KITCHEN CUPBOARD BOTTOM LEFT.
BOW

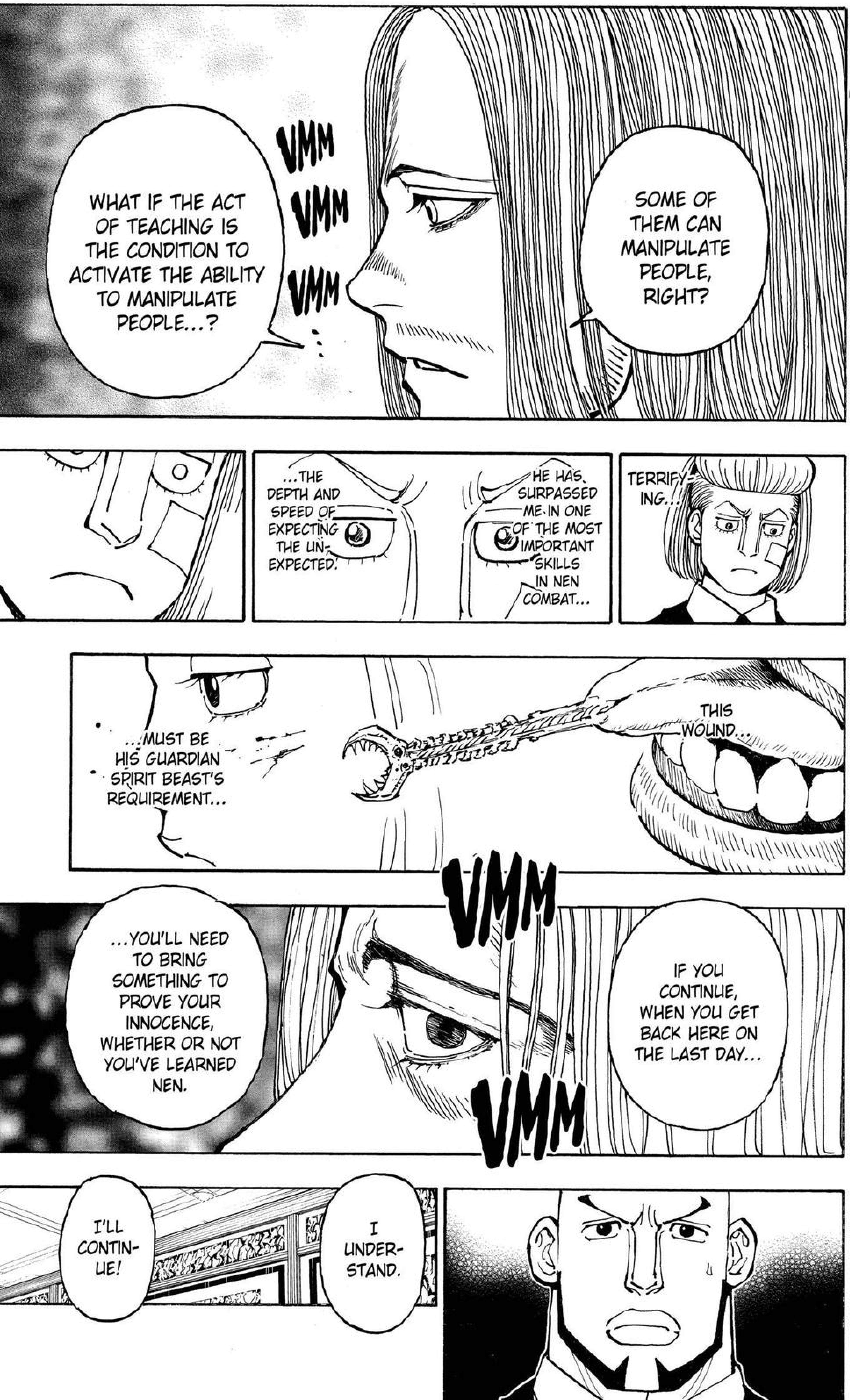

HAVE SECRET CONVERSATIONS ADULTS CAN'T HEAR WITH MOSQUITONE!
SHE'S RACKING HER BRAINS...
...IN ORDER TO SURVIVE.
I'LL SAVE HER.
I SWEAR ...!!

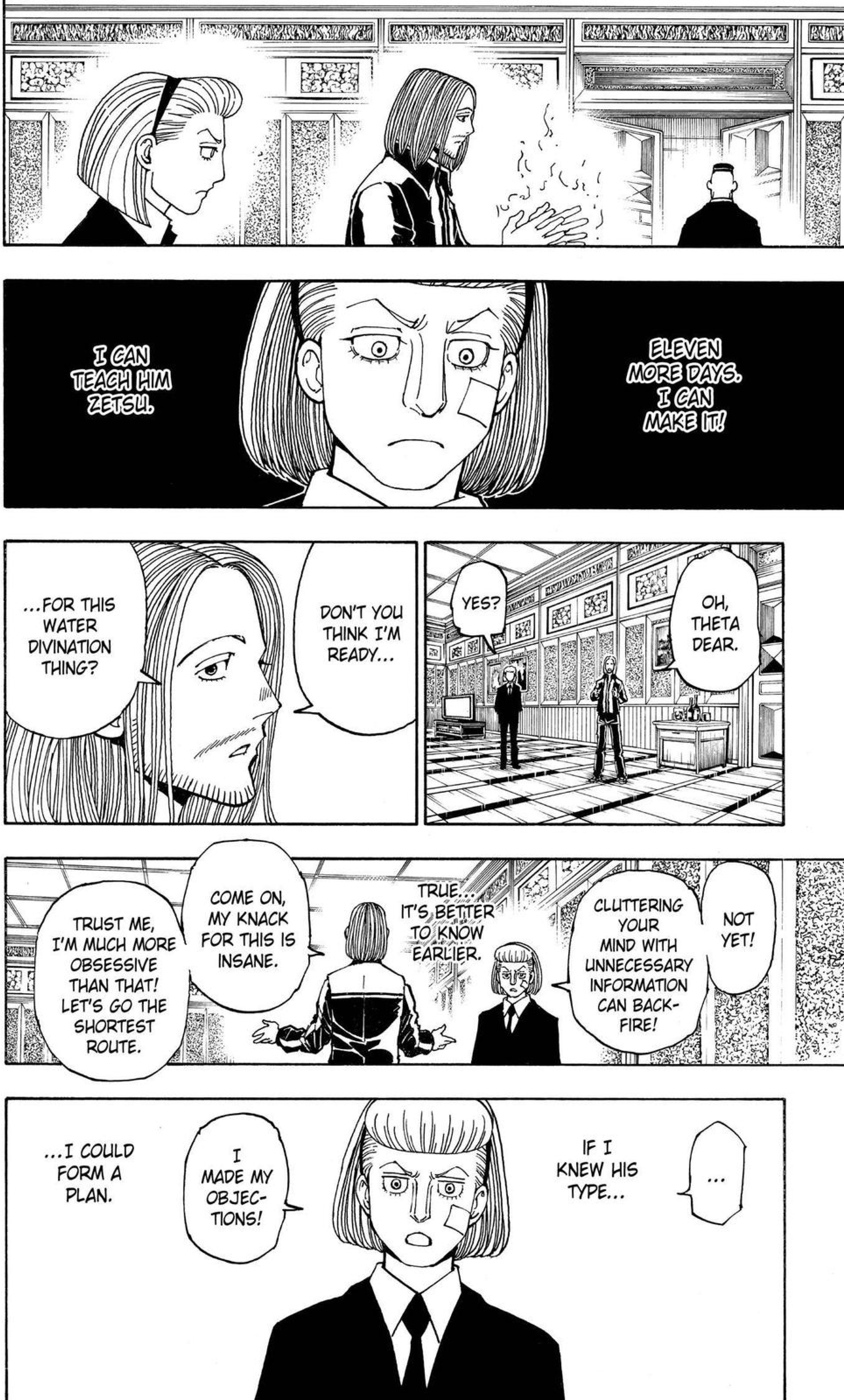

ANOTHER ONE THIS MORNING.
…
IT LOOKS LIKE AN ORDINARY COIN…
IF THE NEN BEAST CREATED IT…
…WHAT KIND OF EFFECT DO YOU THINK IT HAS?
EFFECTS OF CONJURED OBJECTS CAN BE CLASSIFIED INTO TWO GROUPS.
THEY EITHER WORK THE SAME AS ACTUAL WEAPONS AND TOOLS, OR THEY HAVE A SUPERNATURAL EFFECT UNIQUE TO NEN.
SINCE THERE IS NO COIN OF THIS DESIGN THAT I COULD FIND, IT WON'T BE THE FORMER.
I'D THINK IT'S A CATALYST THAT ACTIVATES A SUPERNATURAL EFFECT BY FULFILLING CERTAIN CONDITIONS.
…
THIRD PRINCE ZHANG LEI'S GUARDIAN SPIRIT BEAST CONJURER, COMPOUND TYPE. MULTIPLE ABILITIES ACTIVATED BY MULTIPLE CONDITIONS.
SO YOU HAVE NO IDEA.
SOMEONE WHO POSSESSES THE COIN AFTER FULFILLING CERTAIN CONDITIONS WILL GAIN VARIOUS ABILITIES.

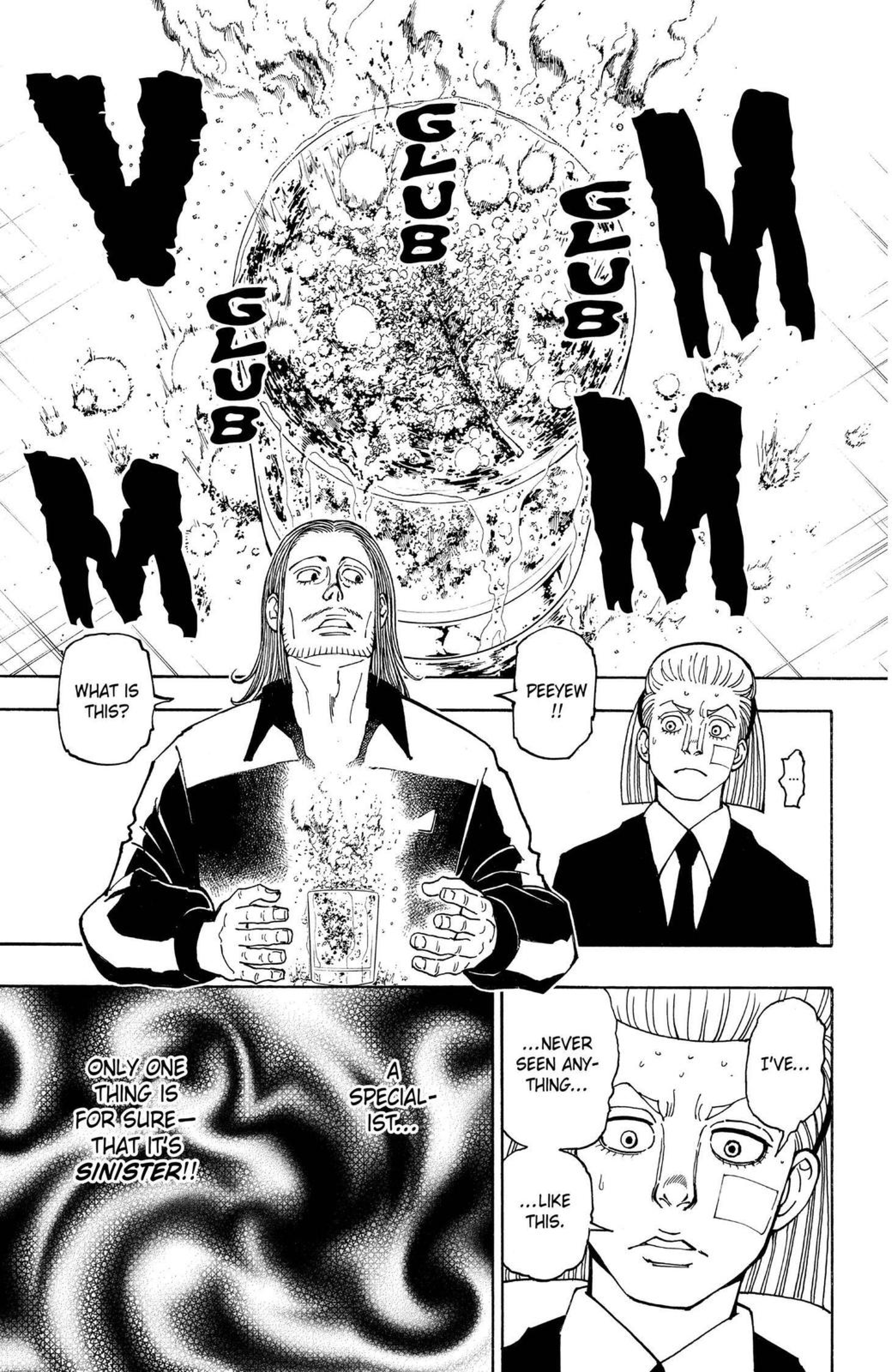

DAY 4,
WEDNESDAY
LATE NIGHT
VMMMM..
THERE IT IS!!
SO THIS MAGIC WORKS ONCE A DAY!
COME TO THINK OF IT, I GOT REALLY TIRED YESTERDAY AFTER I GOT BACK.
...
WHERE SHOULD I GO TODAY?
KATTY HAPPENED TO BE IN HER BED YESTERDAY...
...BUT WE WOULD'VE BEEN IN TROUBLE IF THE GUARDS HAD SEEN US.
CAN I REALLY GO *ANYWHERE*...?
IF WE CAN ESCAPE FROM THIS SHIP, I'D GO WITH KATTY!!

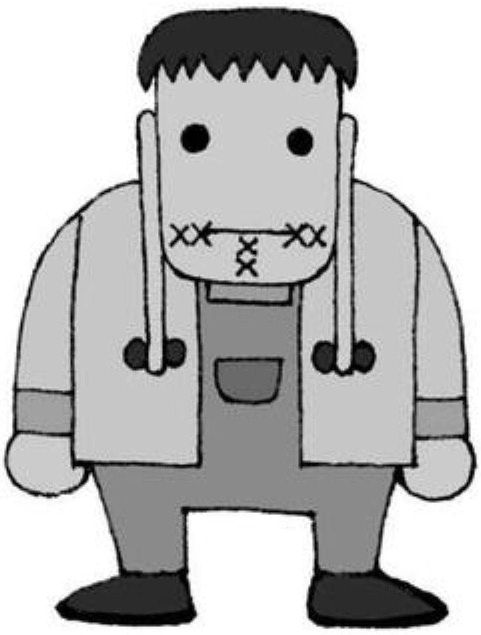

I HAVE TO INVESTIGATE! IS IT REALLY ONCE A DAY? DOES IT TURN OVER AT MIDNIGHT, OR DO I HAVE TO WAIT 24 HOURS?
HOW FAR CAN I GO? HOW MANY PEOPLE CAN GO THROUGH? CAN THE DOOR APPEAR IN OTHER PLACES?
CAN I CHANGE LOCATIONS WHILE I'M COMING BACK? HOW LONG DOES THE DOOR STAY THERE WITHOUT BEING USED?
!!
I DON'T EVEN KNOW IF I CAN COME BACK THROUGH IF I GET OUT ON THE OTHER SIDE!
CAN I TURN BACK MIDWAY OR CHANGE THE DESTINATION WHILE INSIDE?!
SO MANY THINGS I HAVE TO FIGURE OUT!!
I CAN'T WASTE ANY TRIES!!
I HAVE TO THINK AND DO THIS EFFICIENTLY.
FIRST, I'LL CHECK IF I CAN REENTER FROM THE EXIT AND IF I CAN CHANGE WHERE THE ENTRANCE IS FROM THE EXIT. JUST IN CASE I CAN'T GET BACK... I'LL HAVE THE EXIT STAY IN THIS ROOM...
I WANT TO GO ...
SNAP
...NEXT TO THE ENTRANCE !!
BEGIN RE-SEARCH!
THE DOOR DOESN'T APPEAR.
IT WON'T OPEN. IT DOESN'T LOOK ANY DIFFERENT EITHER.
IS IT ONE-WAY FROM THE ENTRANCE? OR DOES IT APPEAR AFTER I OPEN THE ENTRANCE?
GULP
KRI-I
I'M GOING TO SAVE KATTY WITH MY MAGIC!!


1004
MYUHAN WAS KILLED?
YES.
THE CULPRIT...
...USES NEN.
IT WAS SOMEONE AMONG THE 21 PEOPLE IN ROOM 1014.
IT ONLY OCCURS DURING THE CLASS SO FAR, BUT I CAN'T SAY IF IT'S FOURTEENTH PRINCE WOBLE'S PEOPLE OR THE OTHERS.
SHOULD I KEEP GOING TO THE CLASSES?
...
WHAT DO YOU THINK?
IT'S FATAL TO SOMEONE WITHOUT NEN WHO'S ATTACKED WHILE ALONE...
...BUT IT'S POSSIBLE TO AVOID BEING A TARGET ALTOGETHER.
THEY'VE SPECIFIED THE LIMIT TO LEARN NEN AS TWO WEEKS.
SO I'D THINK I SHOULD CONTINUE UNTIL AT LEAST THEN, WHETHER OR NOT IT'S TRUE.
I SEE.
MY IMPRESSION IS THAT KURAPIKA, THE LEADER, IS NOT LYING.
THE GOAL FOR THE HUNTER ASSOCIATION IS TO ESCORT THEM UNTIL WE GET TO THE CONTINENT... THAT'S AS FAR AS THEY NEED TO PREVENT THE ASSASSINATIONS.
IT'S QUITE LIKELY THAT THEY'RE TEACHING NEN FOR REAL TO LEVEL THE PLAYING FIELD, IN ORDER TO CREATE A STALEMATE.
I GENERALLY AGREE.
BUT ARE *YOU* PREPARED TO CONTINUE?
SIR?

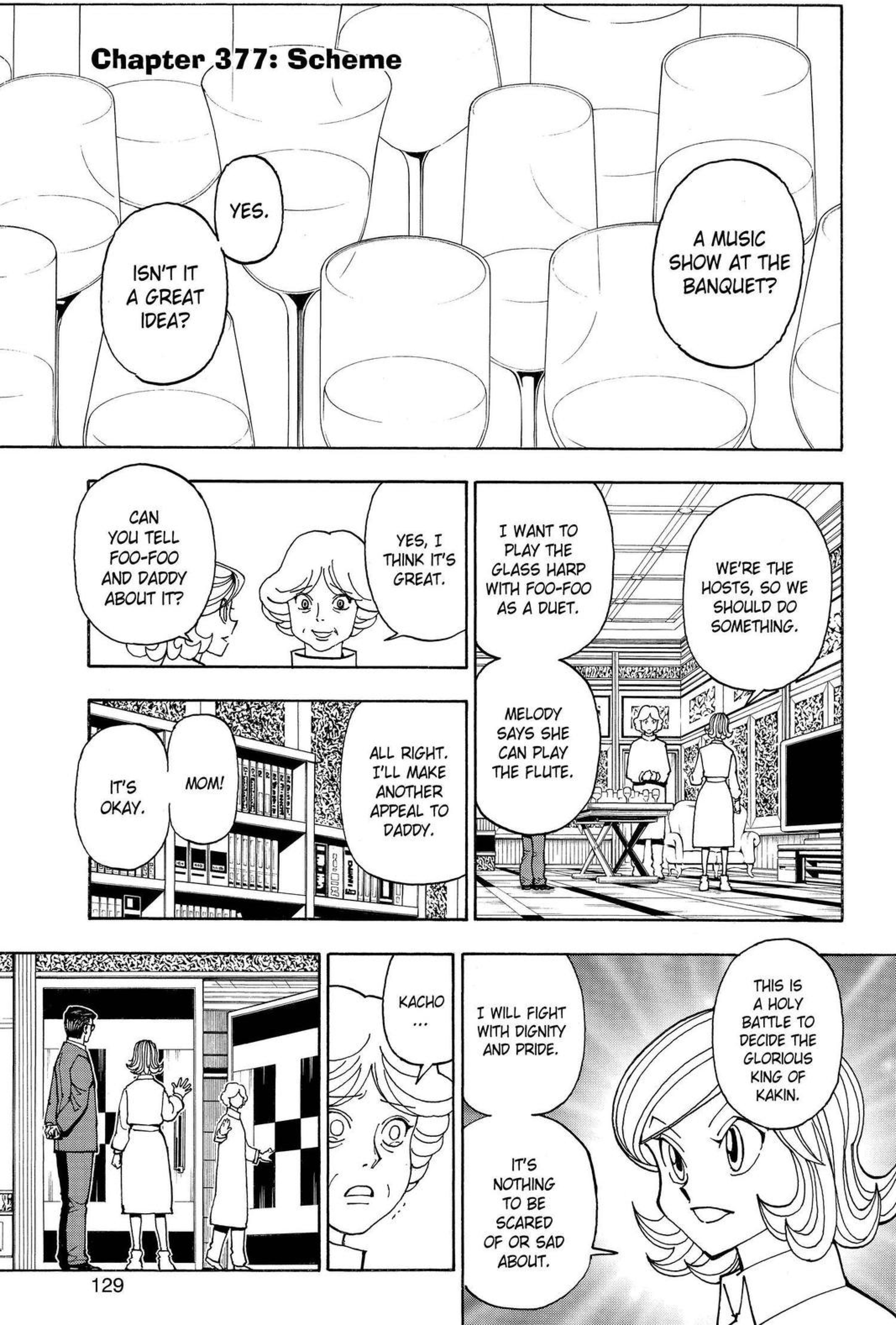

SOME OF THEM CAN MANIPULATE PEOPLE, RIGHT?
VMM
VMM
VMM
WHAT IF THE ACT OF TEACHING IS THE CONDITION TO ACTIVATE THE ABILITY TO MANIPULATE PEOPLE...?
TERRIFYING...
HE HAS SURPASSED ME IN ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT SKILLS IN NEN COMBAT...
...THE DEPTH AND SPEED OF EXPECTING THE UNEXPECTED.
THIS WOUND...
...MUST BE HIS GUARDIAN SPIRIT BEAST'S REQUIREMENT...
VMM
VMM
IF YOU CONTINUE, WHEN YOU GET BACK HERE ON THE LAST DAY...
...YOU'LL NEED TO BRING SOMETHING TO PROVE YOUR INNOCENCE, WHETHER OR NOT YOU'VE LEARNED NEN.
I UNDERSTAND.
I'LL CONTINUE!

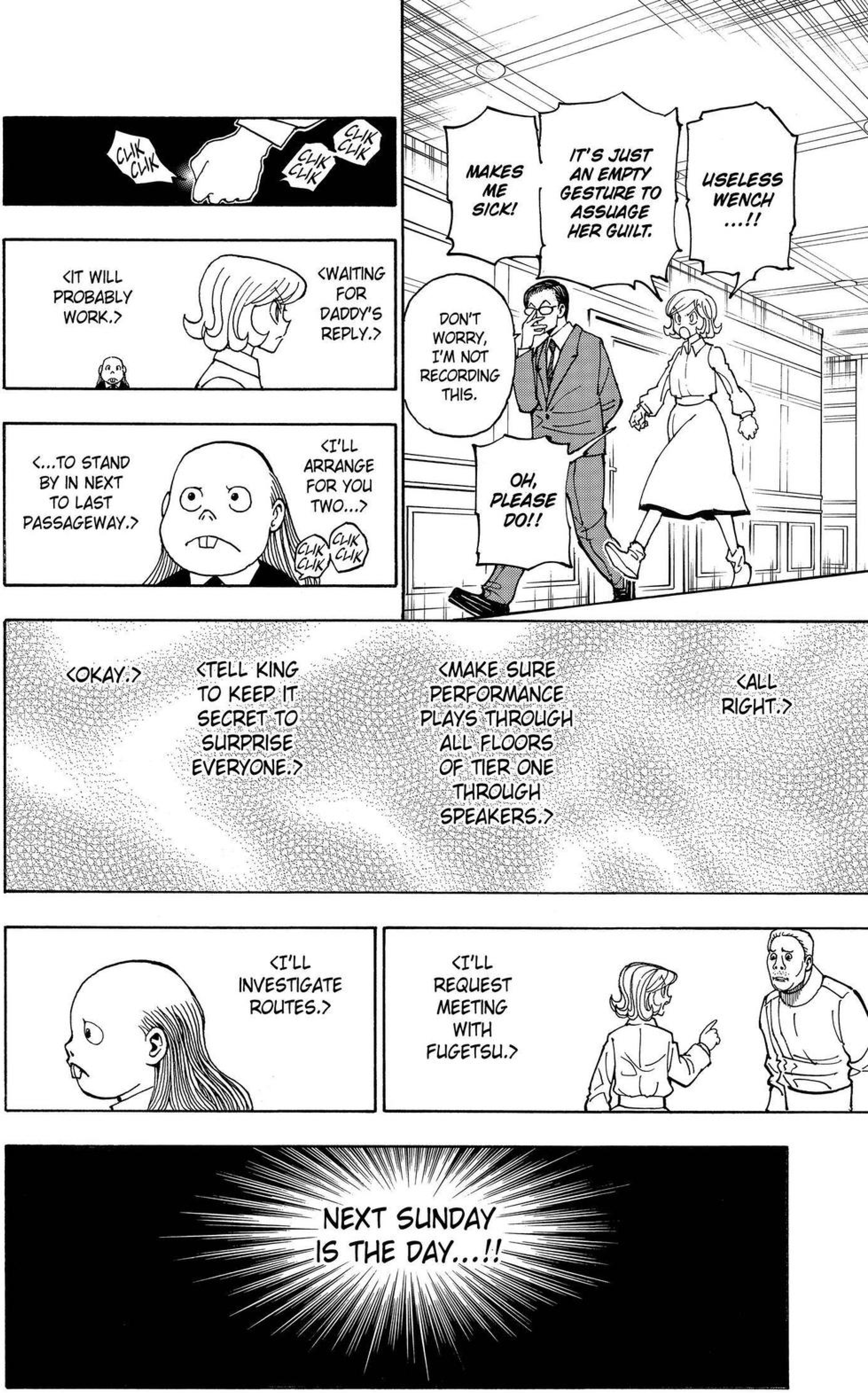

ELEVEN MORE DAYS. I CAN MAKE IT!
I CAN TEACH HIM ZETSU.
OH, THETA DEAR.
YES?
DON'T YOU THINK I'M READY...
...FOR THIS WATER DIVINATION THING?
NOT YET!
CLUTTERING YOUR MIND WITH UNNECESSARY INFORMATION CAN BACKFIRE!
TRUE... IT'S BETTER TO KNOW EARLIER.
COME ON, MY KNACK FOR THIS IS INSANE.
TRUST ME, I'M MUCH MORE OBSESSIVE THAN THAT! LET'S GO THE SHORTEST ROUTE.
...
IF I KNEW HIS TYPE...
I MADE MY OBJECTIONS!
...I COULD FORM A PLAN.

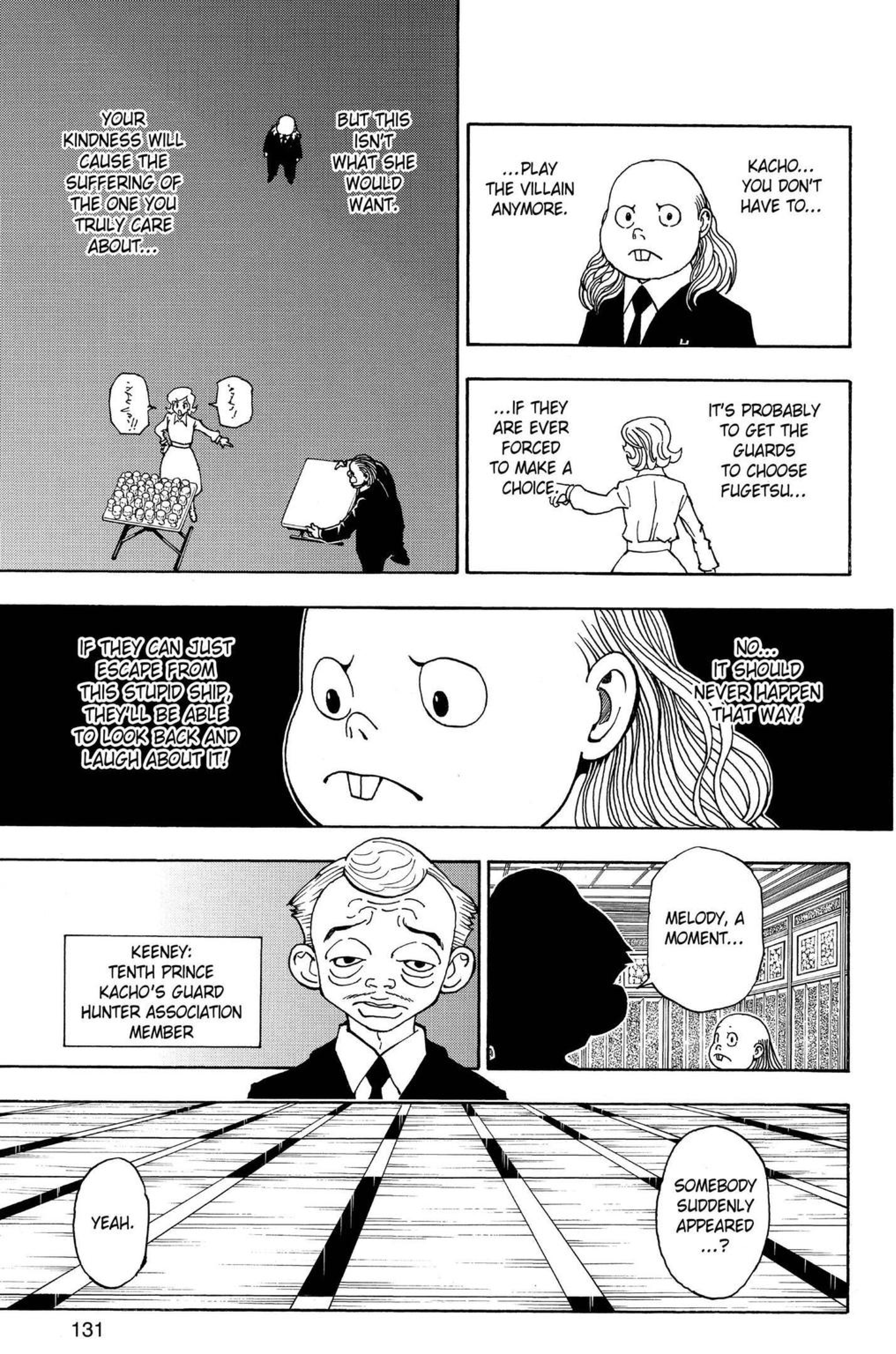

VMMM
GLUB GLUB
GLUB GLUB
PEEYEW!!
…
WHAT IS THIS?
I'VE…
…NEVER SEEN ANYTHING…
…LIKE THIS.
A SPECIALIST…
ONLY ONE THING IS FOR SURE—THAT IT'S SINISTER!!

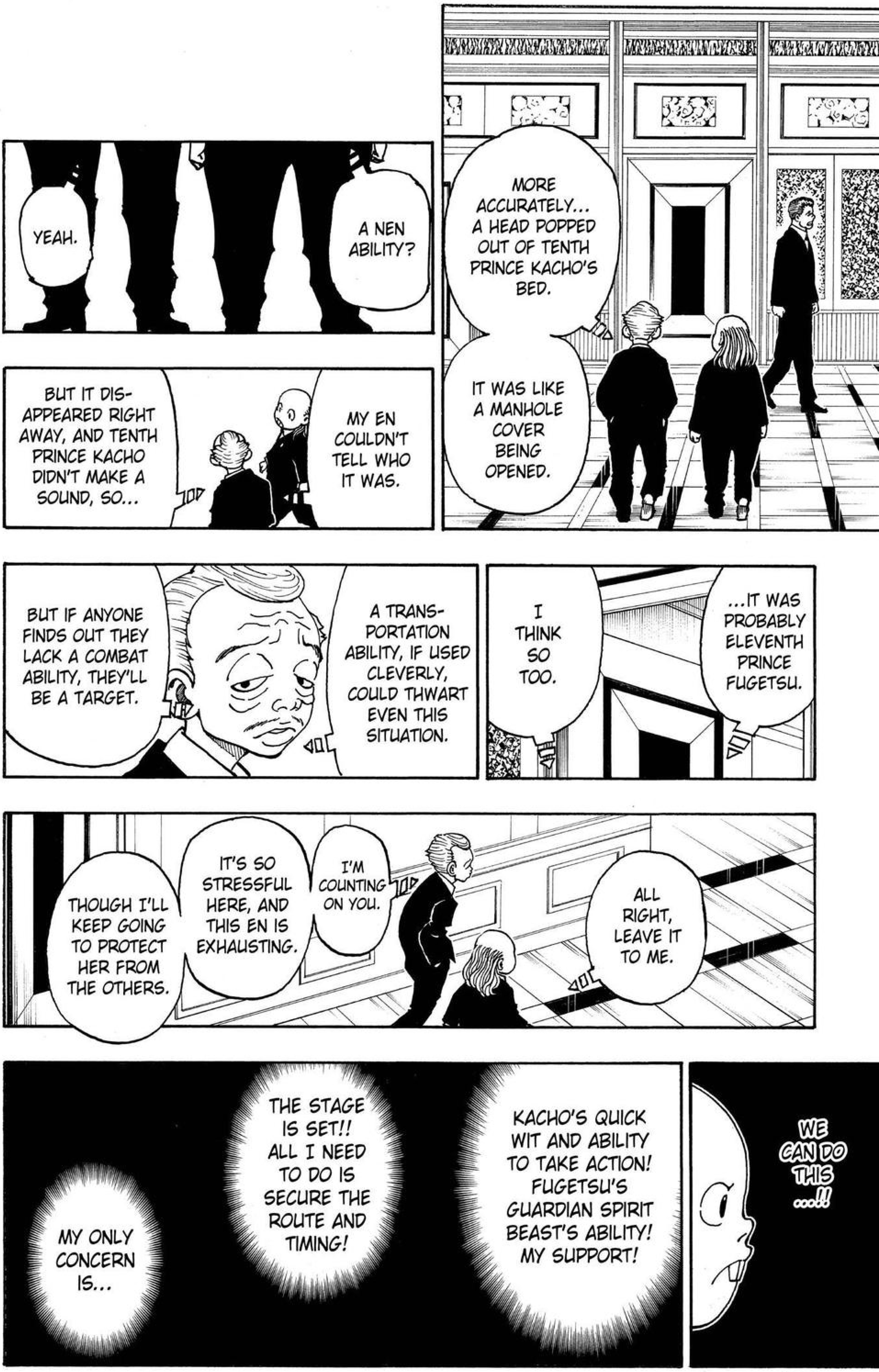


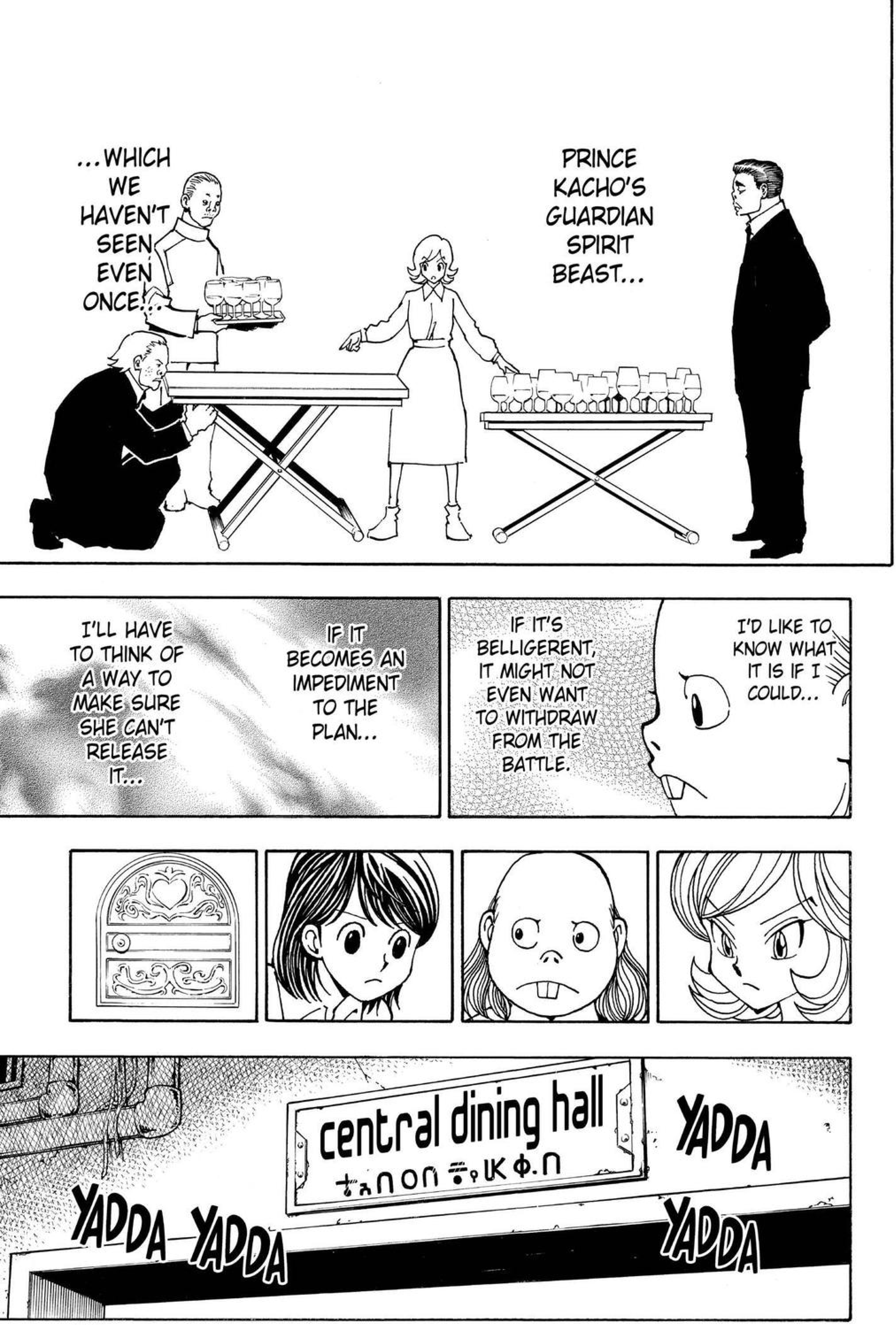
Chapter 377: Scheme

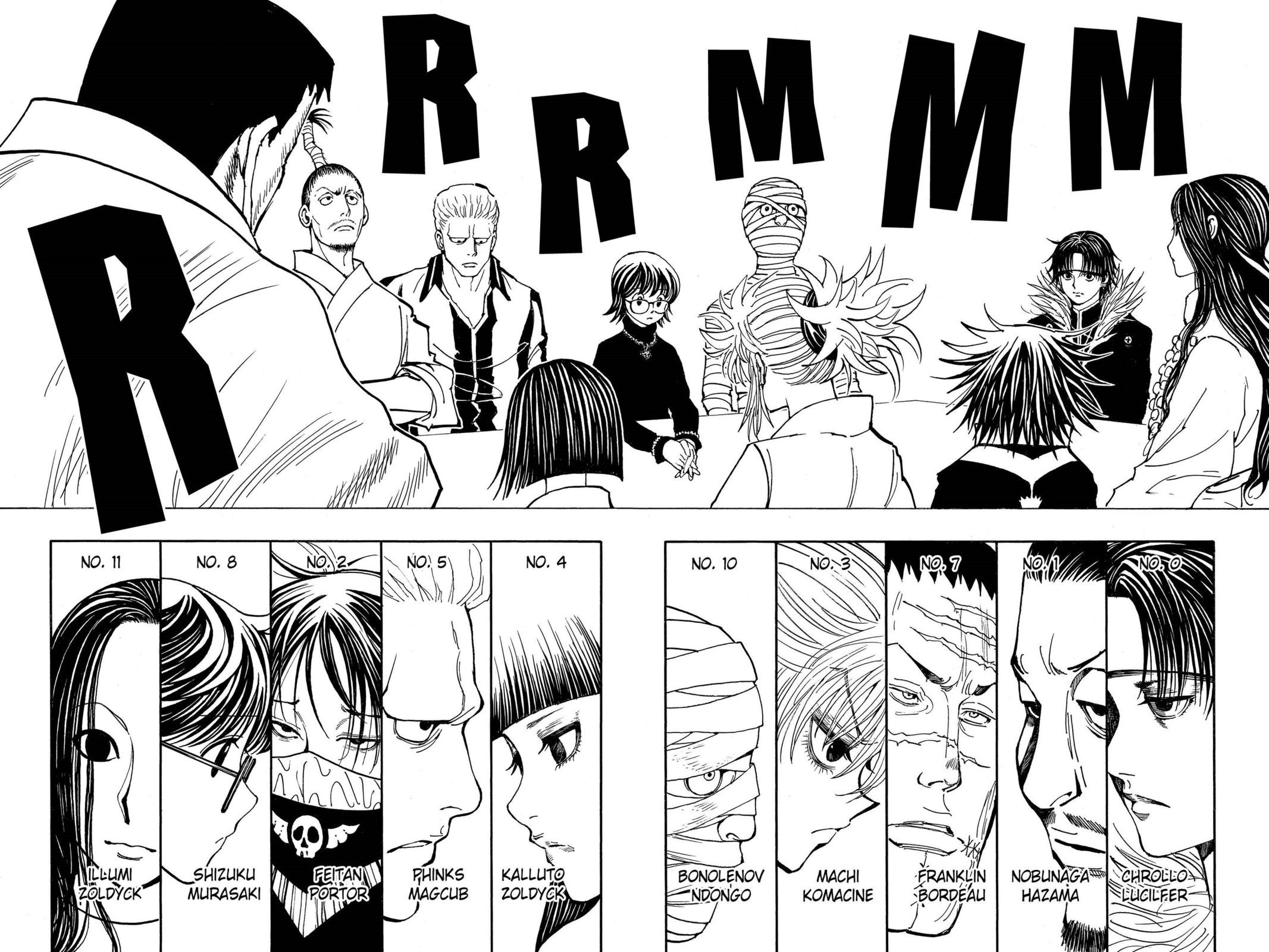

A MUSIC SHOW AT THE BANQUET?
YES.
ISN'T IT A GREAT IDEA?
WE'RE THE HOSTS, SO WE SHOULD DO SOMETHING.
I WANT TO PLAY THE GLASS HARP WITH FOO-FOO AS A DUET.
MELODY SAYS SHE CAN PLAY THE FLUTE.
YES, I THINK IT'S GREAT.
CAN YOU TELL FOO-FOO AND DADDY ABOUT IT?
ALL RIGHT. I'LL MAKE ANOTHER APPEAL TO DADDY.
MOM!
IT'S OKAY.
THIS IS A HOLY BATTLE TO DECIDE THE GLORIOUS KING OF KAKIN.
I WILL FIGHT WITH DIGNITY AND PRIDE.
IT'S NOTHING TO BE SCARED OF OR SAD ABOUT.
KACHO ...

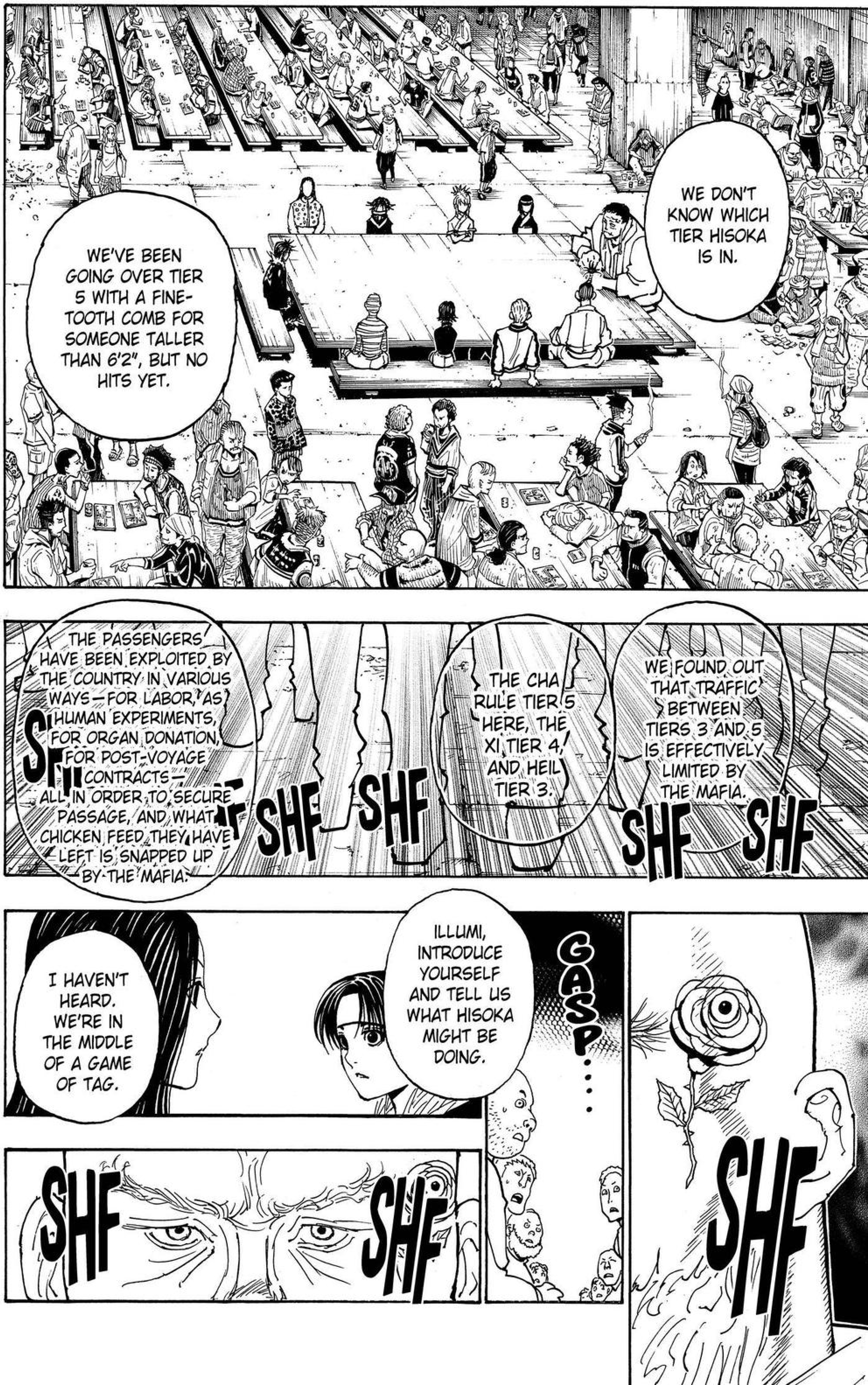

USELESS WENCH ...!!
IT'S JUST AN EMPTY GESTURE TO ASSUAGE HER GUILT.
MAKES ME SICK!
DON'T WORRY, I'M NOT RECORDING THIS.
OH, PLEASE DO!!
CLIK CLIK
CLIK CLIK
CLIK CLIK
<WAITING FOR DADDY'S REPLY.>
<IT WILL PROBABLY WORK.>
<I'LL ARRANGE FOR YOU TWO...>
<...TO STAND BY IN NEXT TO LAST PASSAGEWAY.>
CLIK CLIK
CLIK CLIK
<ALL RIGHT.>
<MAKE SURE PERFORMANCE PLAYS THROUGH ALL FLOORS OF TIER ONE THROUGH SPEAKERS.>
<TELL KING TO KEEP IT SECRET TO SURPRISE EVERYONE.>
<OKAY.>
<I'LL REQUEST MEETING WITH FUGETSU.>
<I'LL INVESTIGATE ROUTES.>
NEXT SUNDAY IS THE DAY...!!

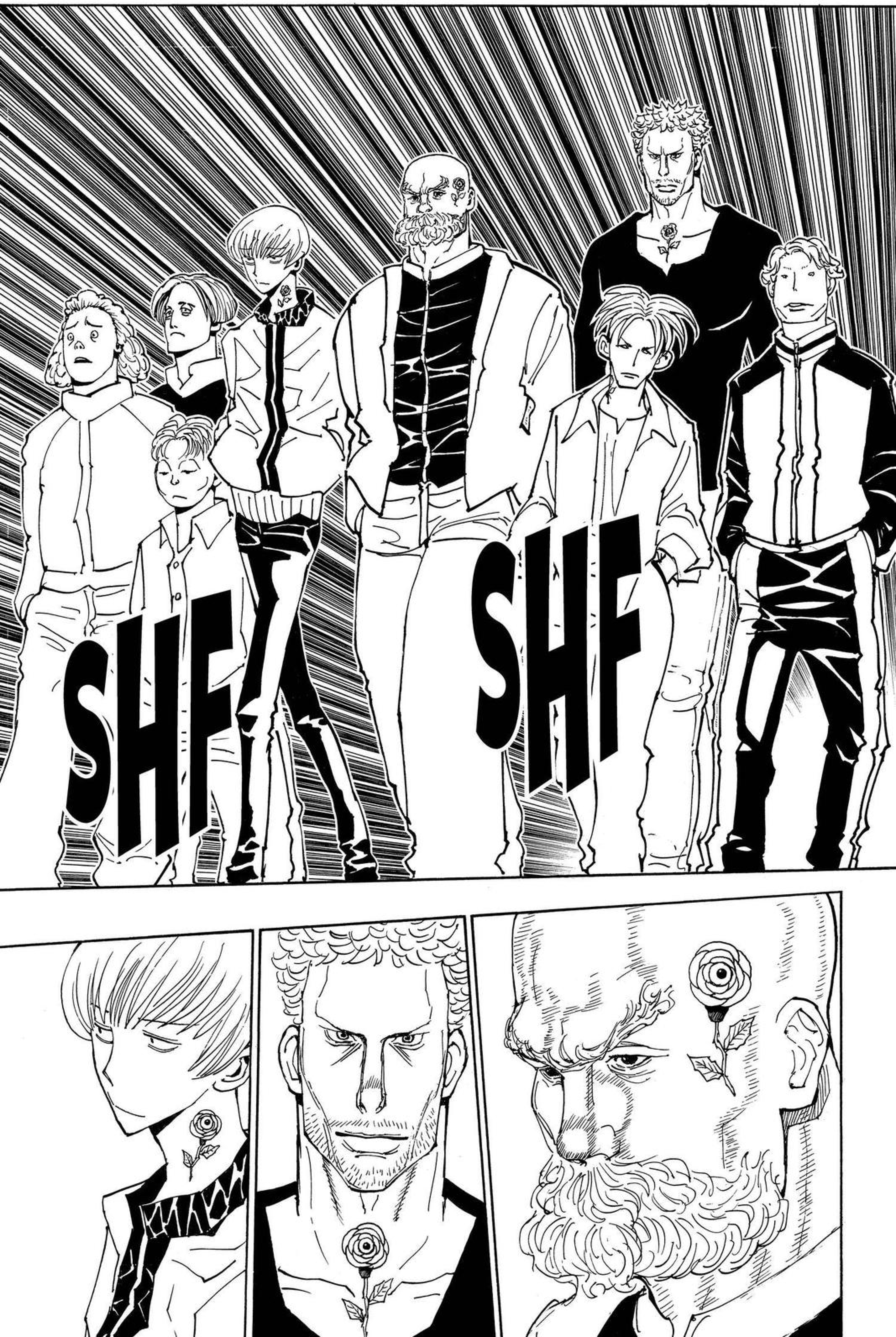

KACHO... YOU DON'T HAVE TO...
...PLAY THE VILLAIN ANYMORE.
IT'S PROBABLY TO GET THE GUARDS TO CHOOSE FUGETSU...
...IF THEY ARE EVER FORCED TO MAKE A CHOICE.
BUT THIS ISN'T WHAT SHE WOULD WANT.
YOUR KINDNESS WILL CAUSE THE SUFFERING OF THE ONE YOU TRULY CARE ABOUT...
NO... IT SHOULD NEVER HAPPEN THAT WAY!
IF THEY CAN JUST ESCAPE FROM THIS STUPID SHIP, THEY'LL BE ABLE TO LOOK BACK AND LAUGH ABOUT IT!
MELODY, A MOMENT...
KEENEY: TENTH PRINCE KACHO'S GUARD HUNTER ASSOCIATION MEMBER
SOMEBODY SUDDENLY APPEARED ...?
YEAH.

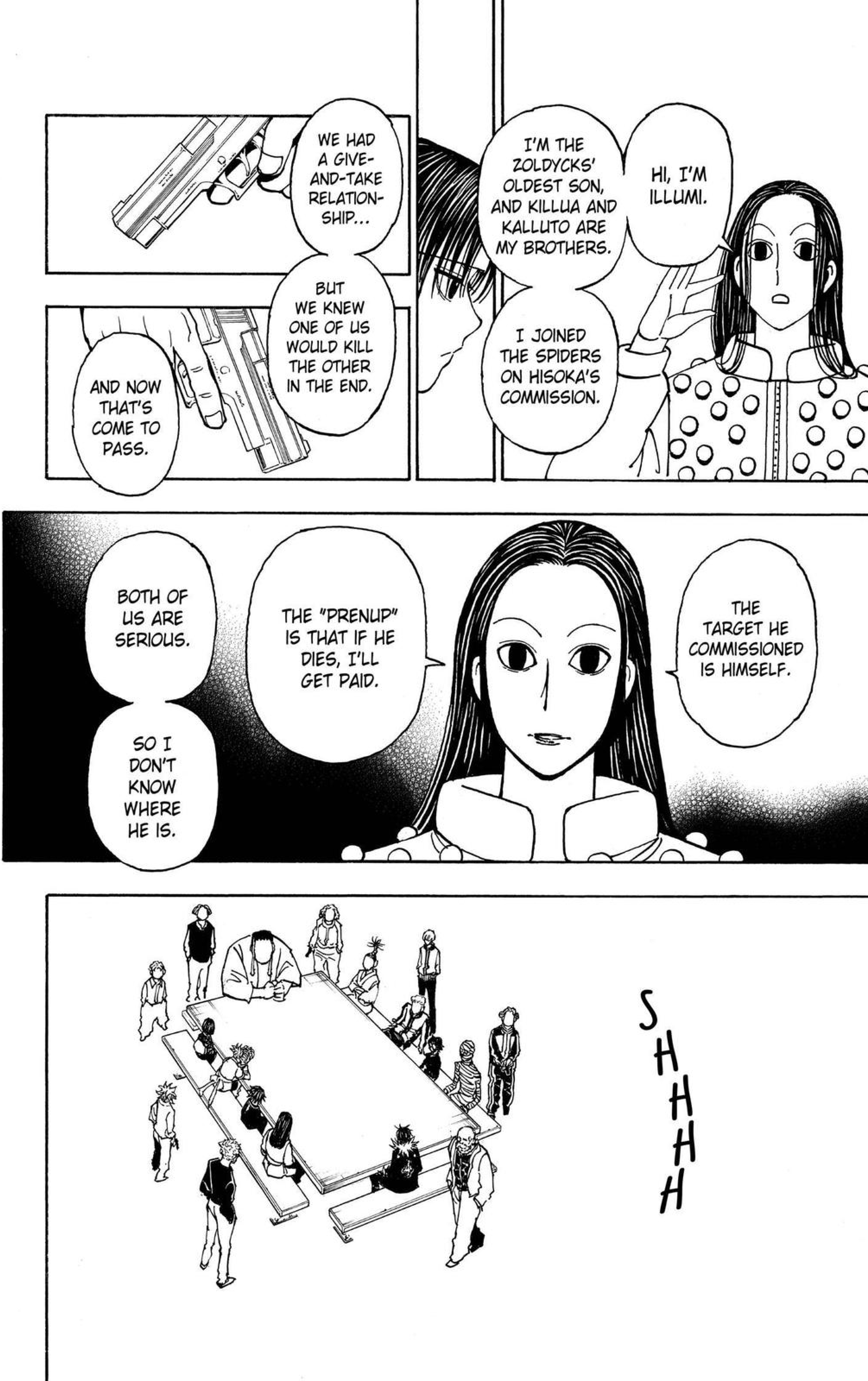

MORE ACCURATELY… A HEAD POPPED OUT OF TENTH PRINCE KACHO'S BED.
IT WAS LIKE A MANHOLE COVER BEING OPENED.
A NEN ABILITY?
YEAH.
MY EN COULDN'T TELL WHO IT WAS.
BUT IT DISAPPEARED RIGHT AWAY, AND TENTH PRINCE KACHO DIDN'T MAKE A SOUND, SO…
…IT WAS PROBABLY ELEVENTH PRINCE FUGETSU.
I THINK SO TOO.
A TRANSPORTATION ABILITY, IF USED CLEVERLY, COULD THWART EVEN THIS SITUATION.
BUT IF ANYONE FINDS OUT THEY LACK A COMBAT ABILITY, THEY'LL BE A TARGET.
ALL RIGHT, LEAVE IT TO ME.
I'M COUNTING ON YOU.
IT'S SO STRESSFUL HERE, AND THIS EN IS EXHAUSTING.
THOUGH I'LL KEEP GOING TO PROTECT HER FROM THE OTHERS.
WE CAN DO THIS …!!
KACHO'S QUICK WIT AND ABILITY TO TAKE ACTION! FUGETSU'S GUARDIAN SPIRIT BEAST'S ABILITY! MY SUPPORT!
THE STAGE IS SET!! ALL I NEED TO DO IS SECURE THE ROUTE AND TIMING!
MY ONLY CONCERN IS…

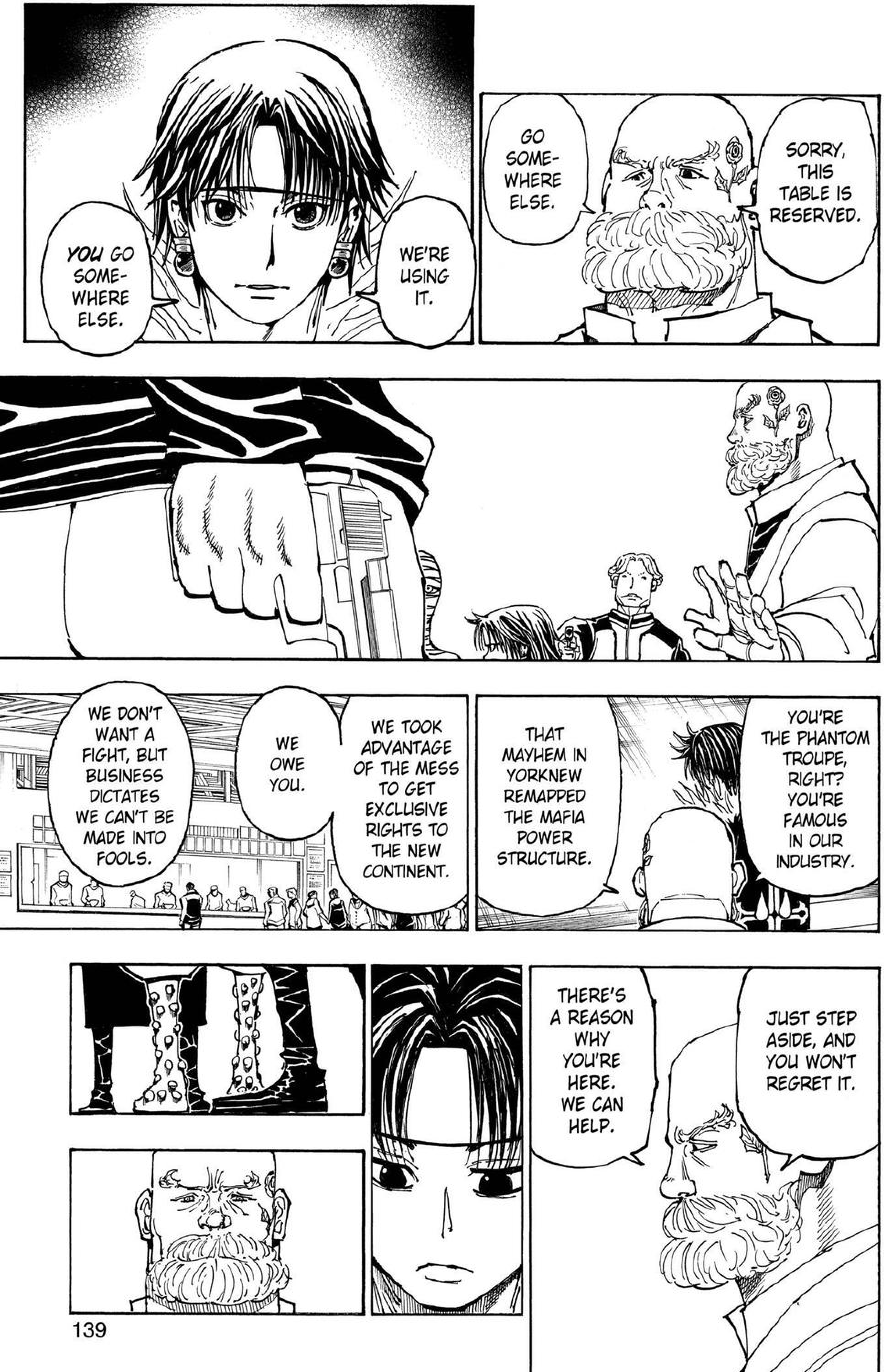

PRINCE KACHO'S GUARDIAN SPIRIT BEAST...
...WHICH WE HAVEN'T SEEN EVEN ONCE...
I'D LIKE TO KNOW WHAT IT IS IF I COULD...
IF IT'S BELLIGERENT, IT MIGHT NOT EVEN WANT TO WITHDRAW FROM THE BATTLE.
IF IT BECOMES AN IMPEDIMENT TO THE PLAN...
I'LL HAVE TO THINK OF A WAY TO MAKE SURE SHE CAN'T RELEASE IT...
central dining hall
YADDA
YADDA
YADDA
YADDA

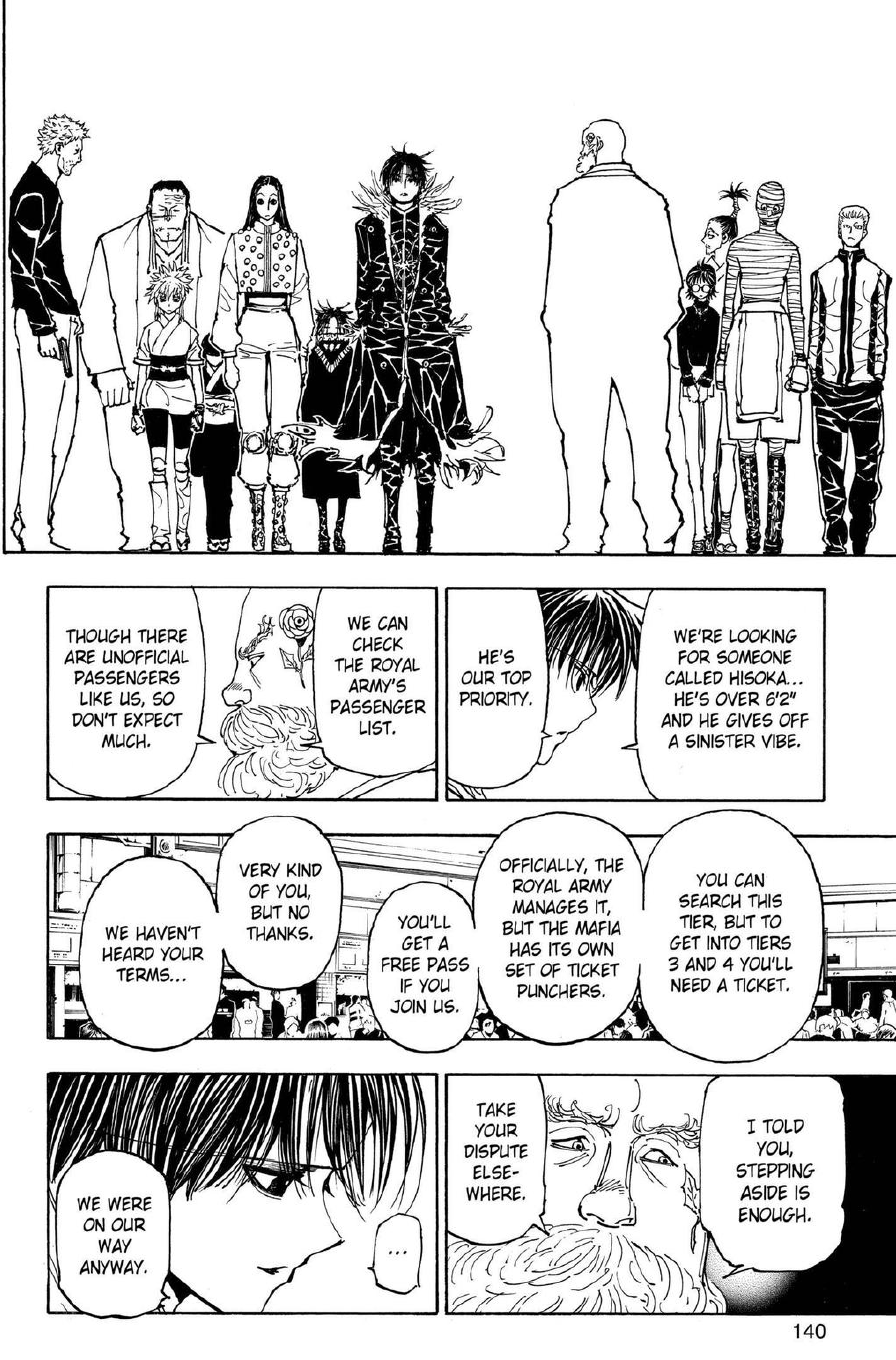

RRRMMM
NO. 0
CHROLLO LUCILFER
NO. 1
NOBUNAGA HAZAMA
NO. 7
FRANKLIN BORDEAU
NO. 3
MACHI KOMACINE
NO. 10
BONOLENOV NDONGO
NO. 4
KALLUTO ZOLDYCK
NO. 5
PHINKS MAGCUB
NO. 2
FEITAN PORTOR
NO. 8
SHIZUKU MURASAKI
NO. 11
ILLUMI ZOLDYCK

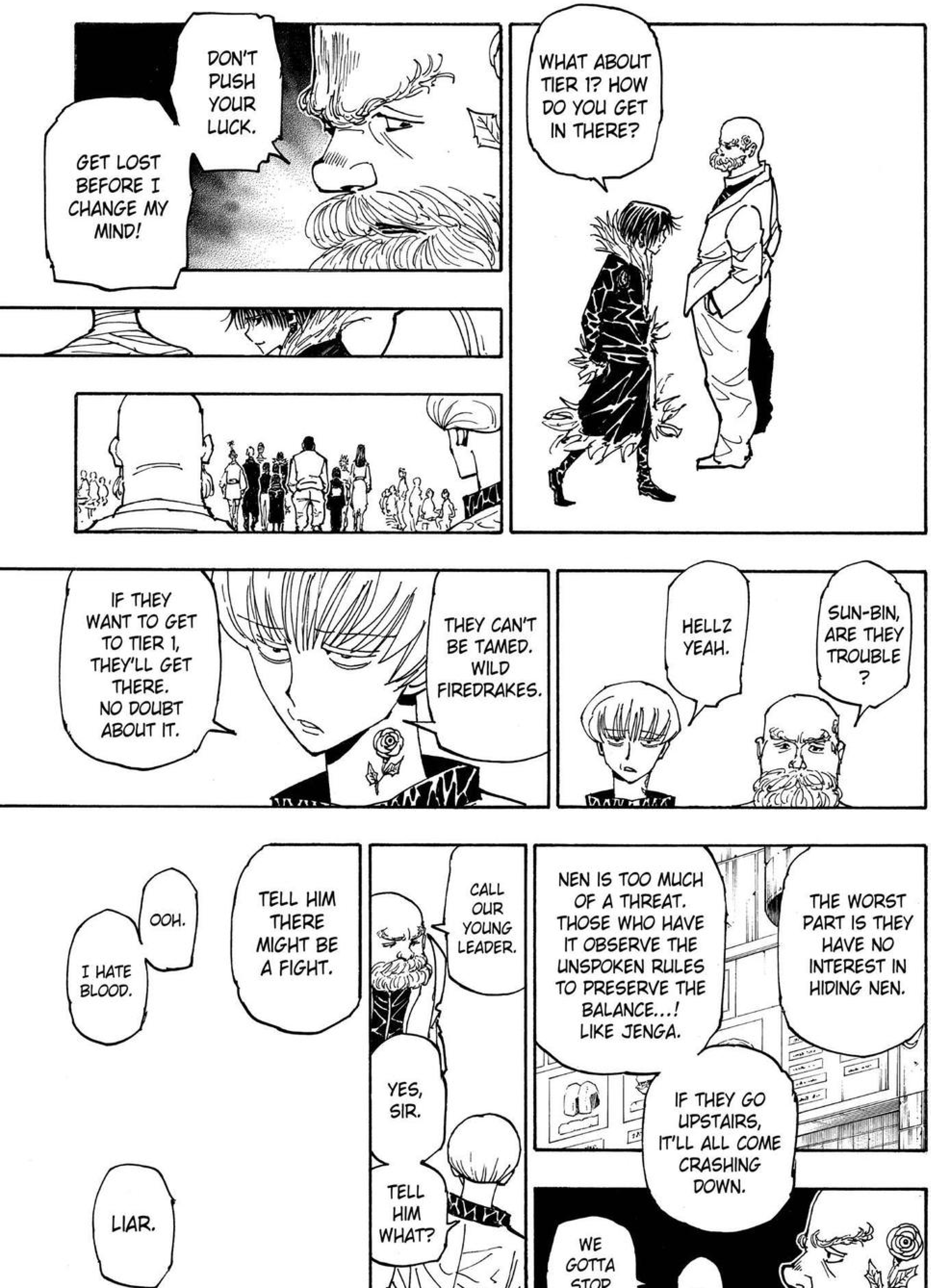

WE DON'T KNOW WHICH TIER HISOKA IS IN.
WE'VE BEEN GOING OVER TIER 5 WITH A FINE-TOOTH COMB FOR SOMEONE TALLER THAN 6'2", BUT NO HITS YET.
WE FOUND OUT THAT TRAFFIC BETWEEN TIERS 3 AND 5 IS EFFECTIVELY LIMITED BY THE MAFIA.
SHF SHF
THE CHA RULE TIER 5 HERE, THE XI TIER 4, AND HEIL TIER 3.
SHF SHF
THE PASSENGERS HAVE BEEN EXPLOITED BY THE COUNTRY IN VARIOUS WAYS—FOR LABOR, AS HUMAN EXPERIMENTS, FOR ORGAN DONATION, FOR POST-VOYAGE CONTRACTS—ALL IN ORDER TO SECURE PASSAGE, AND WHAT CHICKEN FEED THEY HAVE LEFT IS SNAPPED UP BY THE MAFIA.
SHF SHF
ILLUMI, INTRODUCE YOURSELF AND TELL US WHAT HISOKA MIGHT BE DOING.
I HAVEN'T HEARD. WE'RE IN THE MIDDLE OF A GAME OF TAG.
GASP....
SHF SHF
SHF

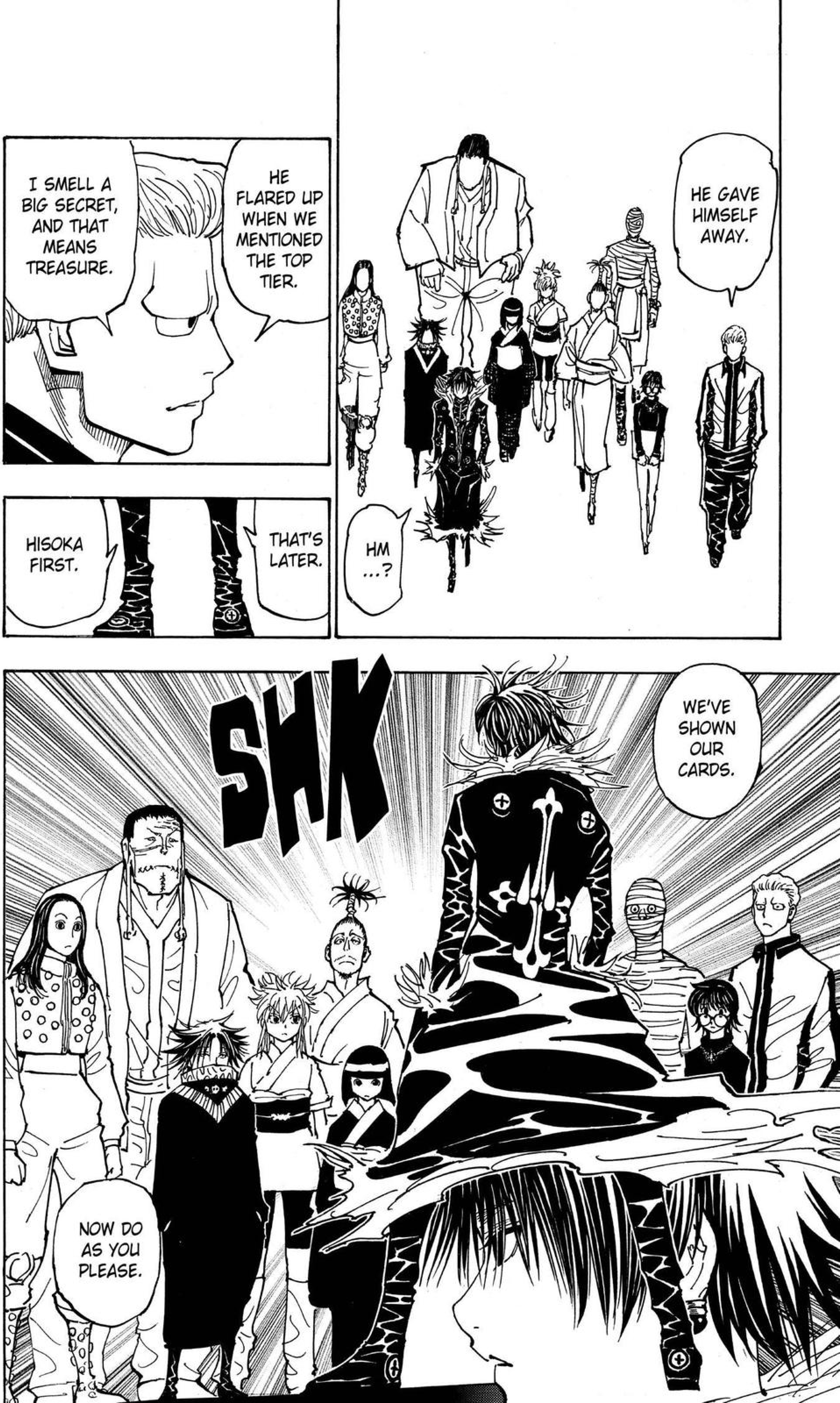

SHF
SHF

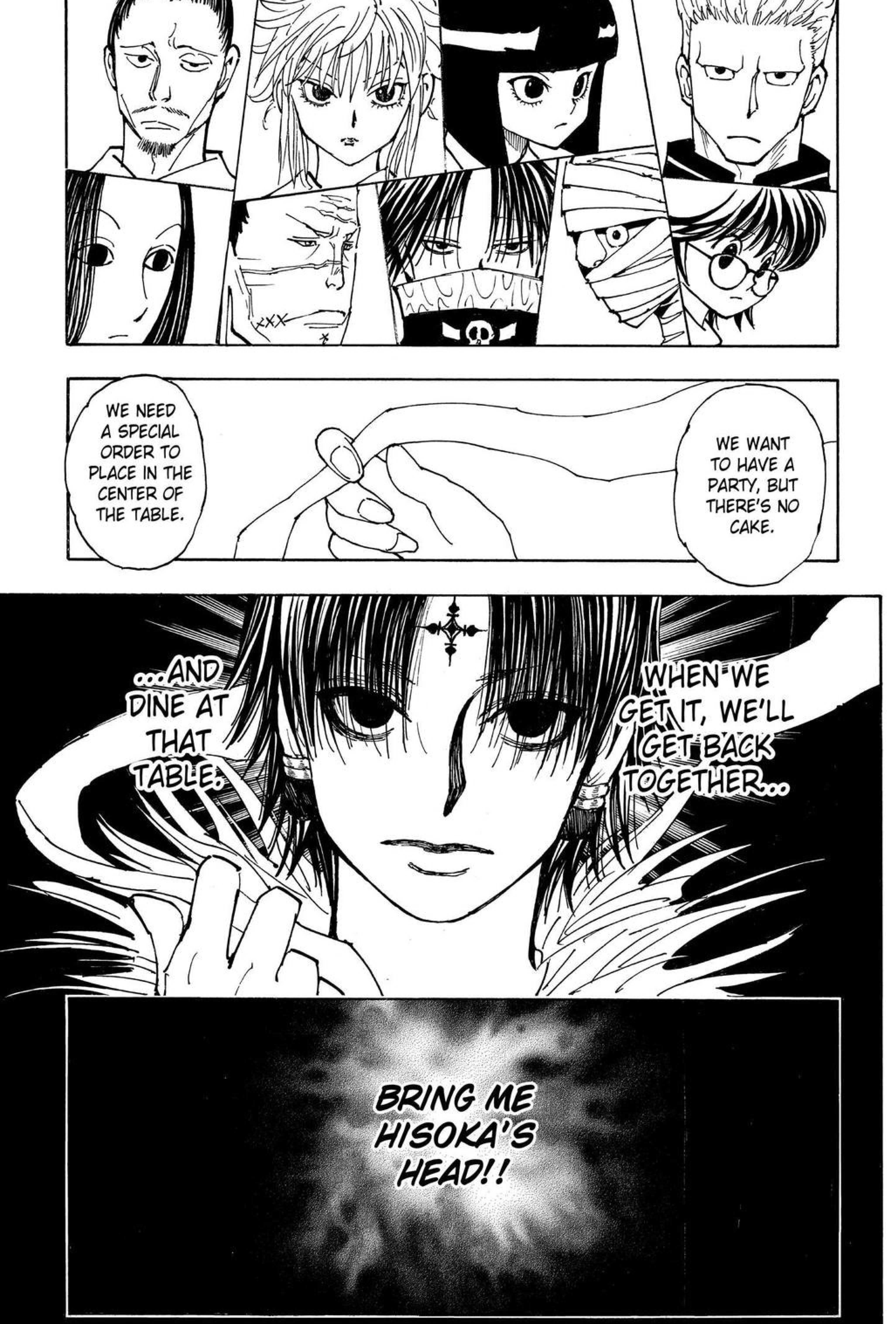

HI, I'M ILLUMI.
I'M THE ZOLDYCKS' OLDEST SON, AND KILLUA AND KALLUTO ARE MY BROTHERS.
I JOINED THE SPIDERS ON HISOKA'S COMMISSION.
WE HAD A GIVE-AND-TAKE RELATIONSHIP…
BUT WE KNEW ONE OF US WOULD KILL THE OTHER IN THE END.
AND NOW THAT'S COME TO PASS.
THE TARGET HE COMMISSIONED IS HIMSELF.
THE "PRENUP" IS THAT IF HE DIES, I'LL GET PAID.
BOTH OF US ARE SERIOUS.
SO I DON'T KNOW WHERE HE IS.
SHHHH

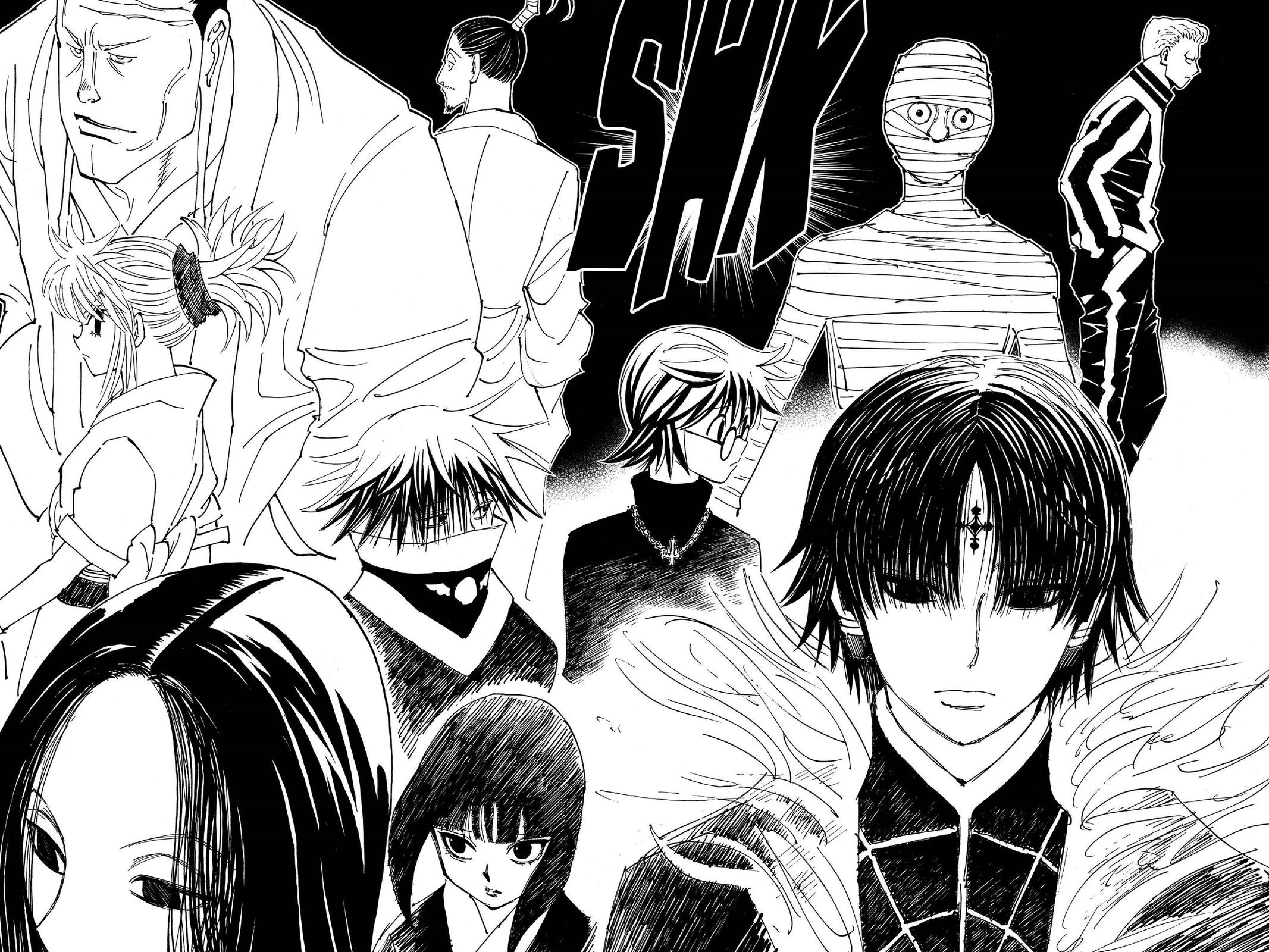

SORRY, THIS TABLE IS RESERVED.
GO SOMEWHERE ELSE.
WE'RE USING IT.
YOU GO SOMEWHERE ELSE.
YOU'RE THE PHANTOM TROUPE, RIGHT? YOU'RE FAMOUS IN OUR INDUSTRY.
THAT MAYHEM IN YORKNEW REMAPPED THE MAFIA POWER STRUCTURE.
WE TOOK ADVANTAGE OF THE MESS TO GET EXCLUSIVE RIGHTS TO THE NEW CONTINENT.
WE OWE YOU.
WE DON'T WANT A FIGHT, BUT BUSINESS DICTATES WE CAN'T BE MADE INTO FOOLS.
JUST STEP ASIDE, AND YOU WON'T REGRET IT.
THERE'S A REASON WHY YOU'RE HERE. WE CAN HELP.

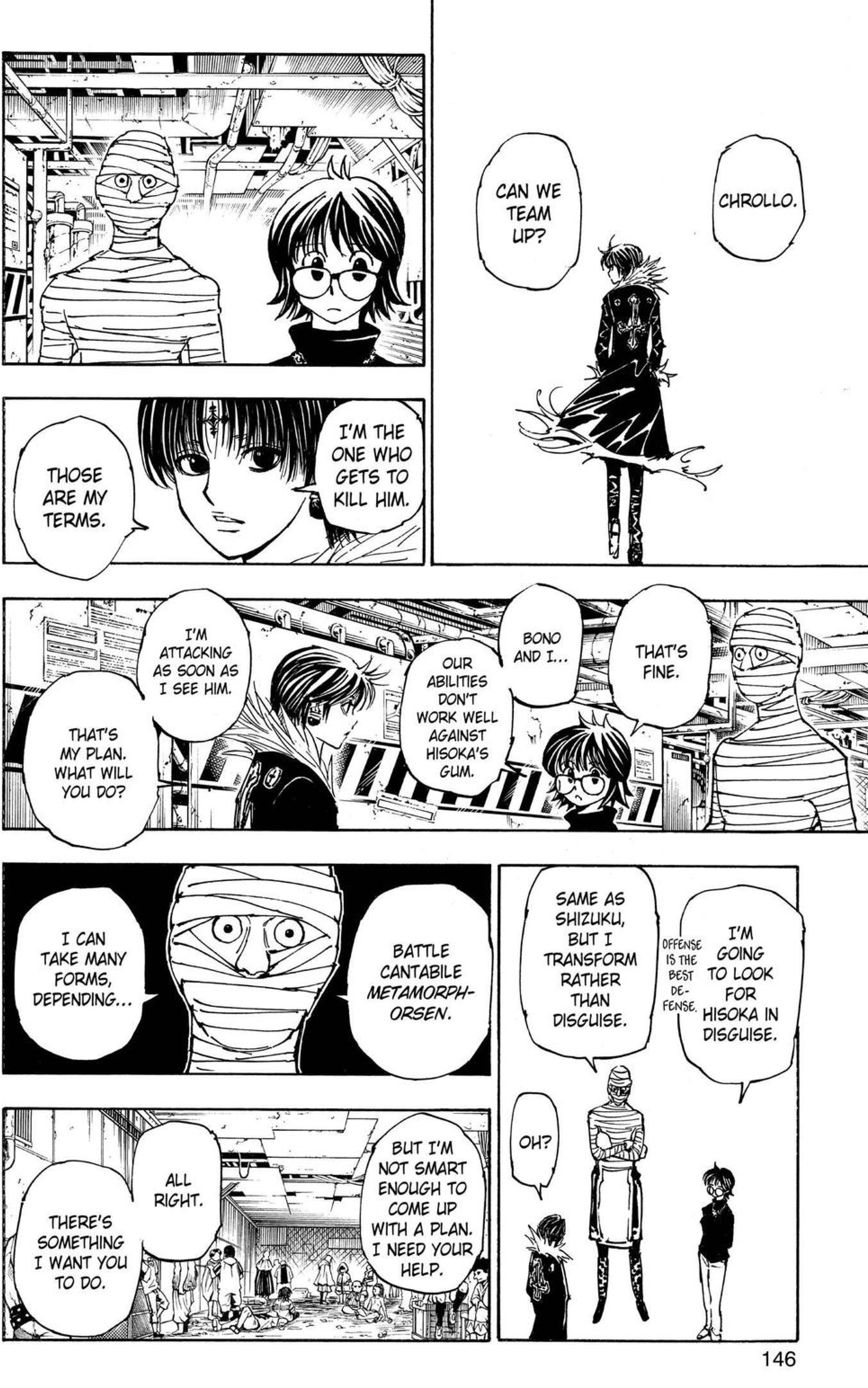

WE'RE LOOKING FOR SOMEONE CALLED HISOKA... HE'S OVER 6'2" AND HE GIVES OFF A SINISTER VIBE.
HE'S OUR TOP PRIORITY.
WE CAN CHECK THE ROYAL ARMY'S PASSENGER LIST.
THOUGH THERE ARE UNOFFICIAL PASSENGERS LIKE US, SO DON'T EXPECT MUCH.
YOU CAN SEARCH THIS TIER, BUT TO GET INTO TIERS 3 AND 4 YOU'LL NEED A TICKET.
OFFICIALLY, THE ROYAL ARMY MANAGES IT, BUT THE MAFIA HAS ITS OWN SET OF TICKET PUNCHERS.
YOU'LL GET A FREE PASS IF YOU JOIN US.
VERY KIND OF YOU, BUT NO THANKS.
WE HAVEN'T HEARD YOUR TERMS...
I TOLD YOU, STEPPING ASIDE IS ENOUGH.
TAKE YOUR DISPUTE ELSEWHERE.
...
WE WERE ON OUR WAY ANYWAY.

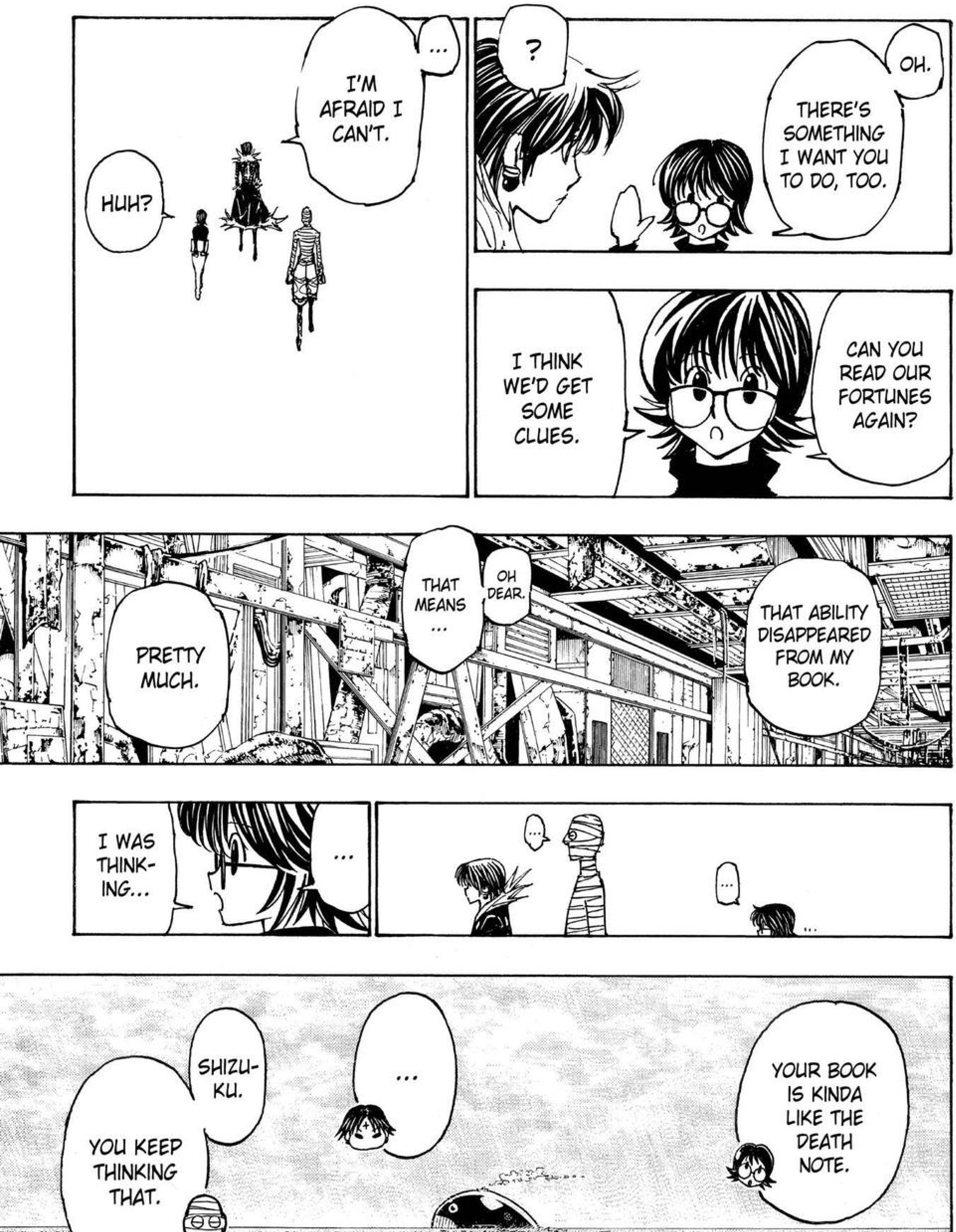

WHAT ABOUT TIER 1? HOW DO YOU GET IN THERE?
DON'T PUSH YOUR LUCK.
GET LOST BEFORE I CHANGE MY MIND!
SUN-BIN, ARE THEY TROUBLE?
HELLZ YEAH.
THEY CAN'T BE TAMED. WILD FIREDRAKES.
IF THEY WANT TO GET TO TIER 1, THEY'LL GET THERE. NO DOUBT ABOUT IT.
THE WORST PART IS THEY HAVE NO INTEREST IN HIDING NEN.
NEN IS TOO MUCH OF A THREAT. THOSE WHO HAVE IT OBSERVE THE UNSPOKEN RULES TO PRESERVE THE BALANCE...! LIKE JENGA.
IF THEY GO UPSTAIRS, IT'LL ALL COME CRASHING DOWN.
...
WE GOTTA STOP THAT.
CALL OUR YOUNG LEADER.
YES, SIR.
TELL HIM WHAT?
TELL HIM THERE MIGHT BE A FIGHT.
OOH.
I HATE BLOOD.
LIAR.


HE GAVE HIMSELF AWAY.
HM ...?
HE FLARED UP WHEN WE MENTIONED THE TOP TIER.
I SMELL A BIG SECRET, AND THAT MEANS TREASURE.
THAT'S LATER.
HISOKA FIRST.
SHK
WE'VE SHOWN OUR CARDS.
NOW DO AS YOU PLEASE.

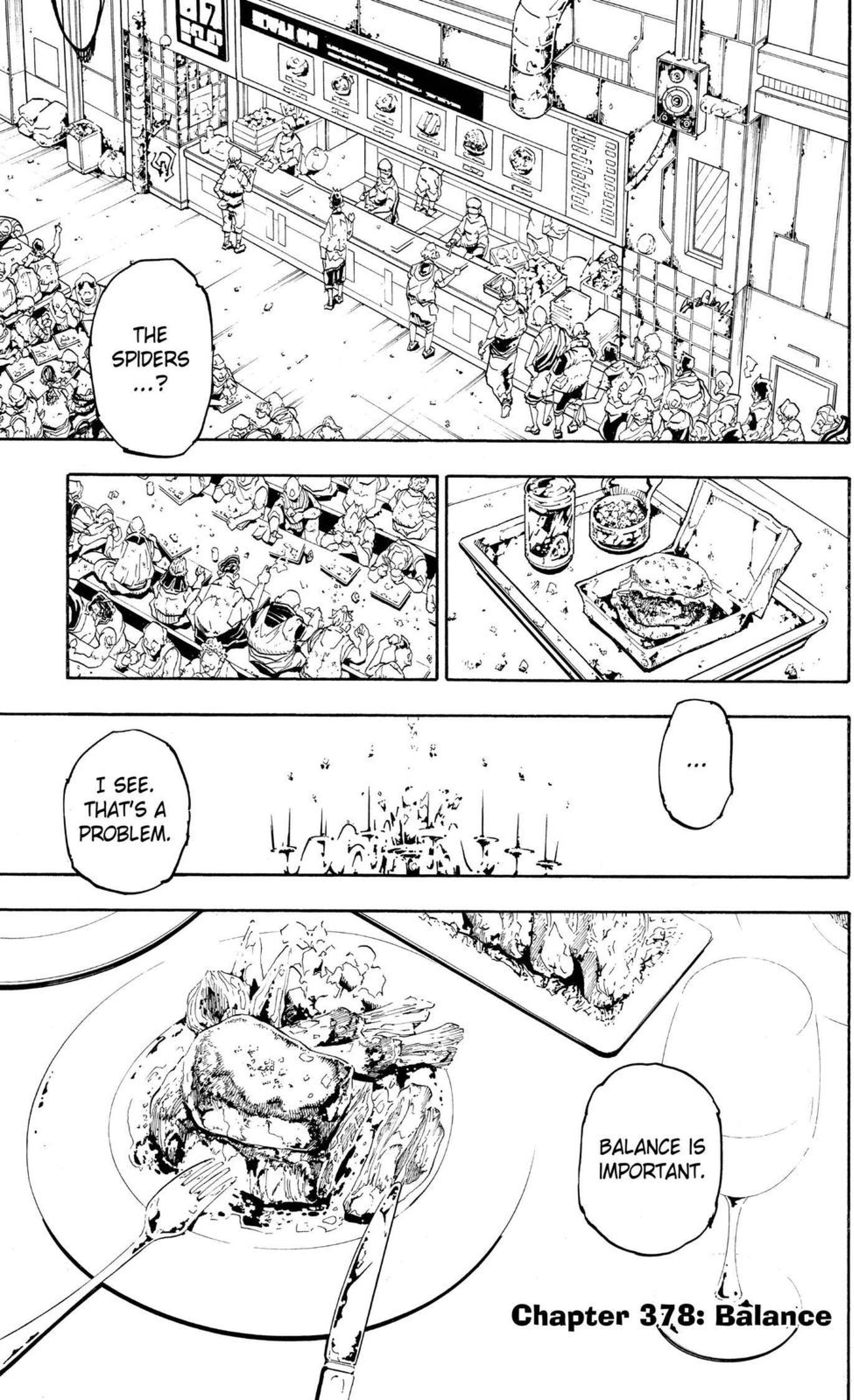

WE WANT TO HAVE A PARTY, BUT THERE'S NO CAKE.
WE NEED A SPECIAL ORDER TO PLACE IN THE CENTER OF THE TABLE.
WHEN WE GET IT, WE'LL GET BACK TOGETHER...
...AND DINE AT THAT TABLE.
BRING ME HISOKA'S HEAD!!

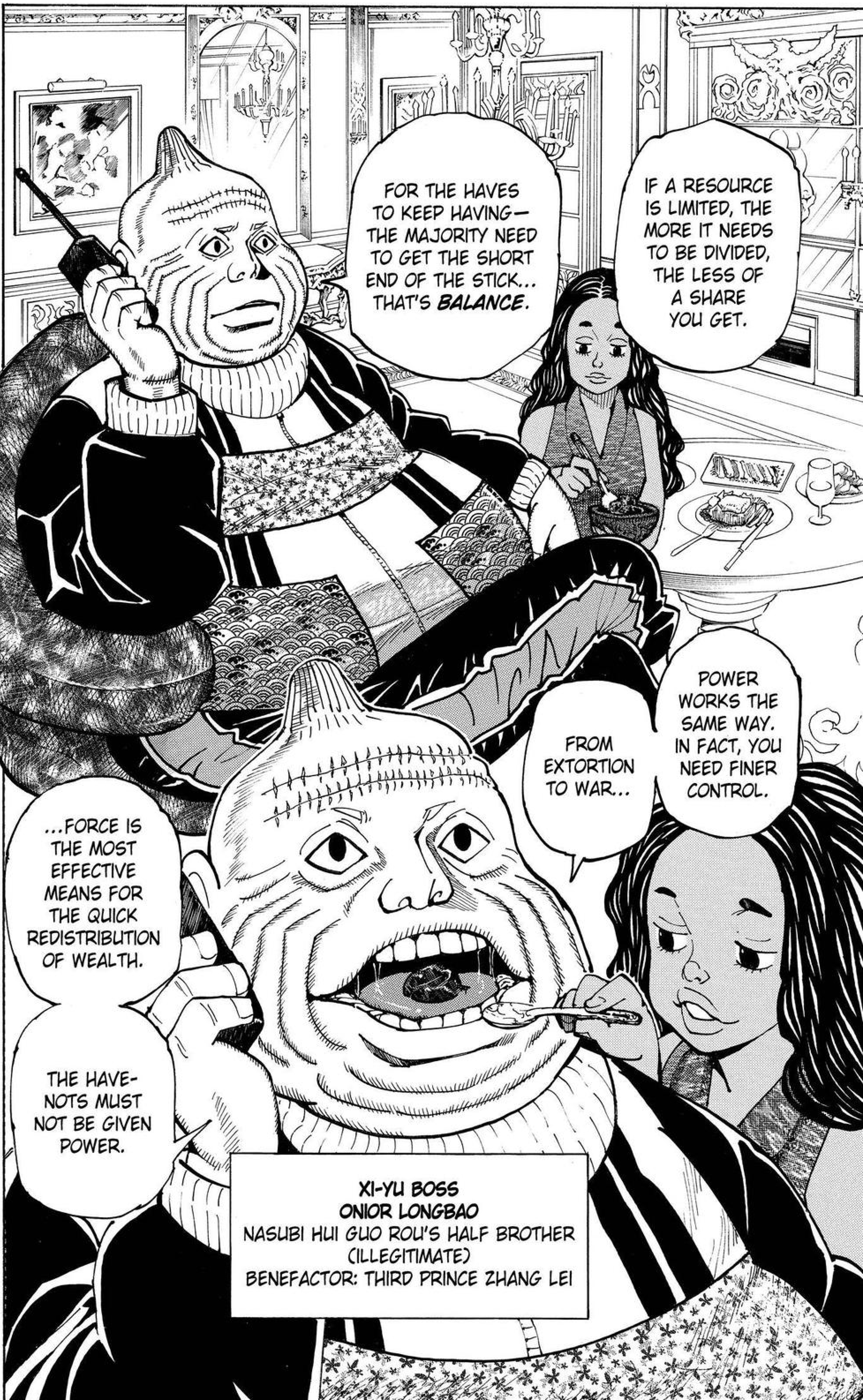

SHA

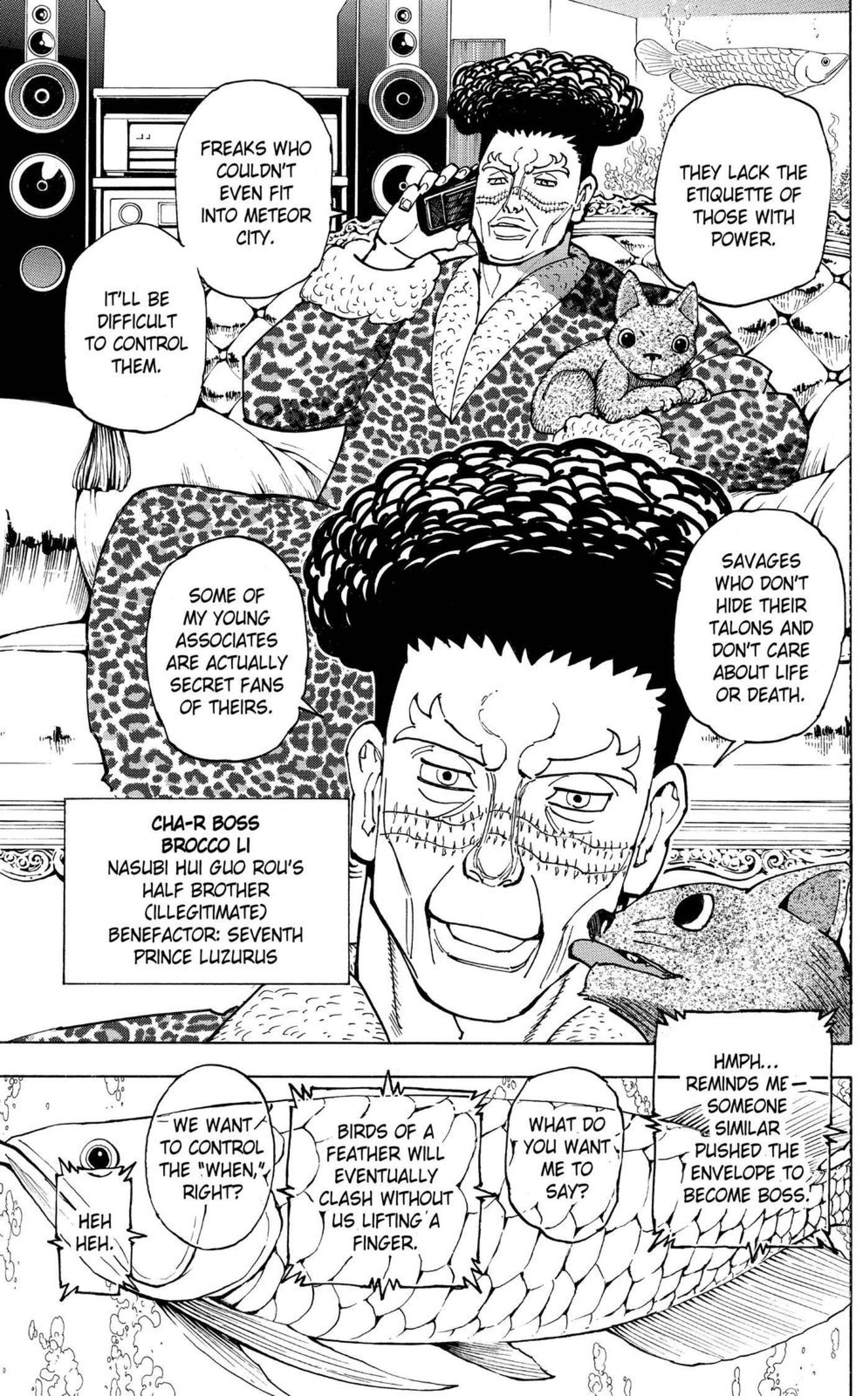

CHROLLO.
CAN WE TEAM UP?
I'M THE ONE WHO GETS TO KILL HIM.
THOSE ARE MY TERMS.
THAT'S FINE.
BONO AND I...
OUR ABILITIES DON'T WORK WELL AGAINST HISOKA'S GUM.
I'M ATTACKING AS SOON AS I SEE HIM.
THAT'S MY PLAN. WHAT WILL YOU DO?
I'M GOING TO LOOK FOR HISOKA IN DISGUISE.
OFFENSE IS THE BEST DEFENSE.
SAME AS SHIZUKU, BUT I TRANSFORM RATHER THAN DISGUISE.
OH?
BATTLE CANTABILE *METAMORPHORSEN*.
I CAN TAKE MANY FORMS, DEPENDING...
BUT I'M NOT SMART ENOUGH TO COME UP WITH A PLAN. I NEED YOUR HELP.
ALL RIGHT.
THERE'S SOMETHING I WANT YOU TO DO.

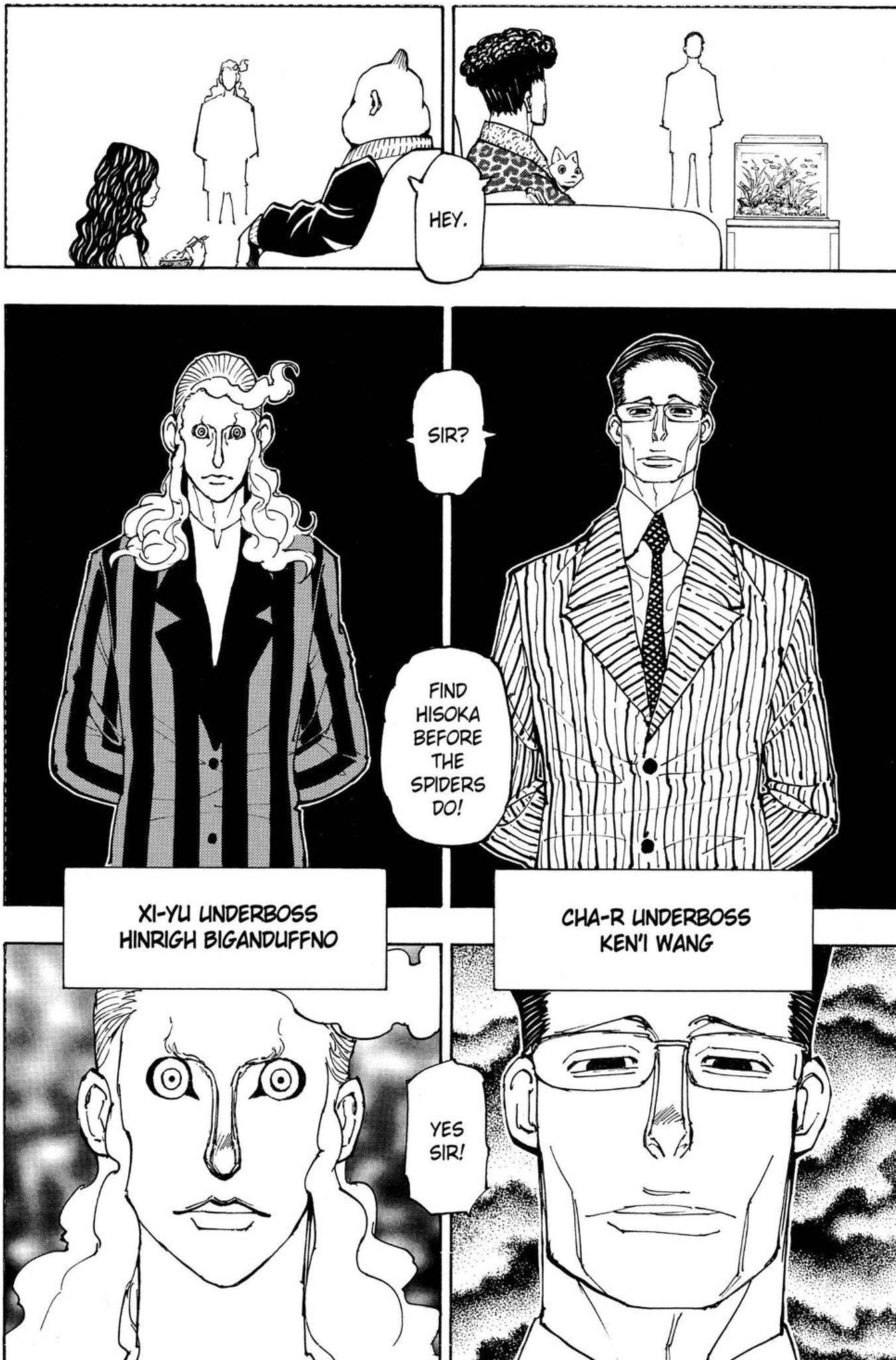

OH.
THERE'S SOMETHING I WANT YOU TO DO, TOO.
?
CAN YOU READ OUR FORTUNES AGAIN?
I THINK WE'D GET SOME CLUES.
...
I'M AFRAID I CAN'T.
HUH?
THAT ABILITY DISAPPEARED FROM MY BOOK.
OH DEAR.
THAT MEANS ...
PRETTY MUCH.
...
...
...
...
I WAS THINKING...
YOUR BOOK IS KINDA LIKE THE DEATH NOTE.
...
SHIZUKU.
YOU KEEP THINKING THAT.

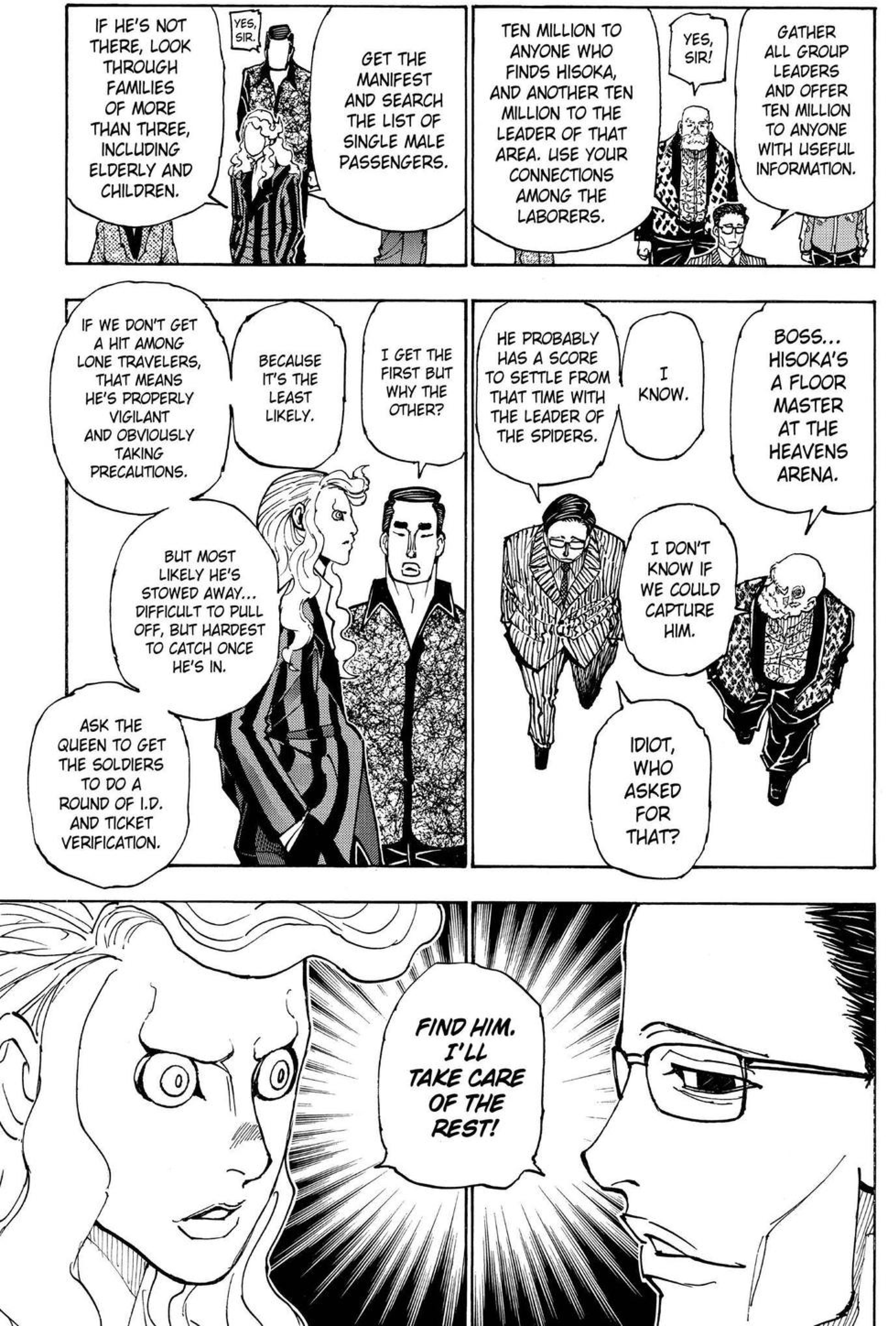
Chapter 378: Balance

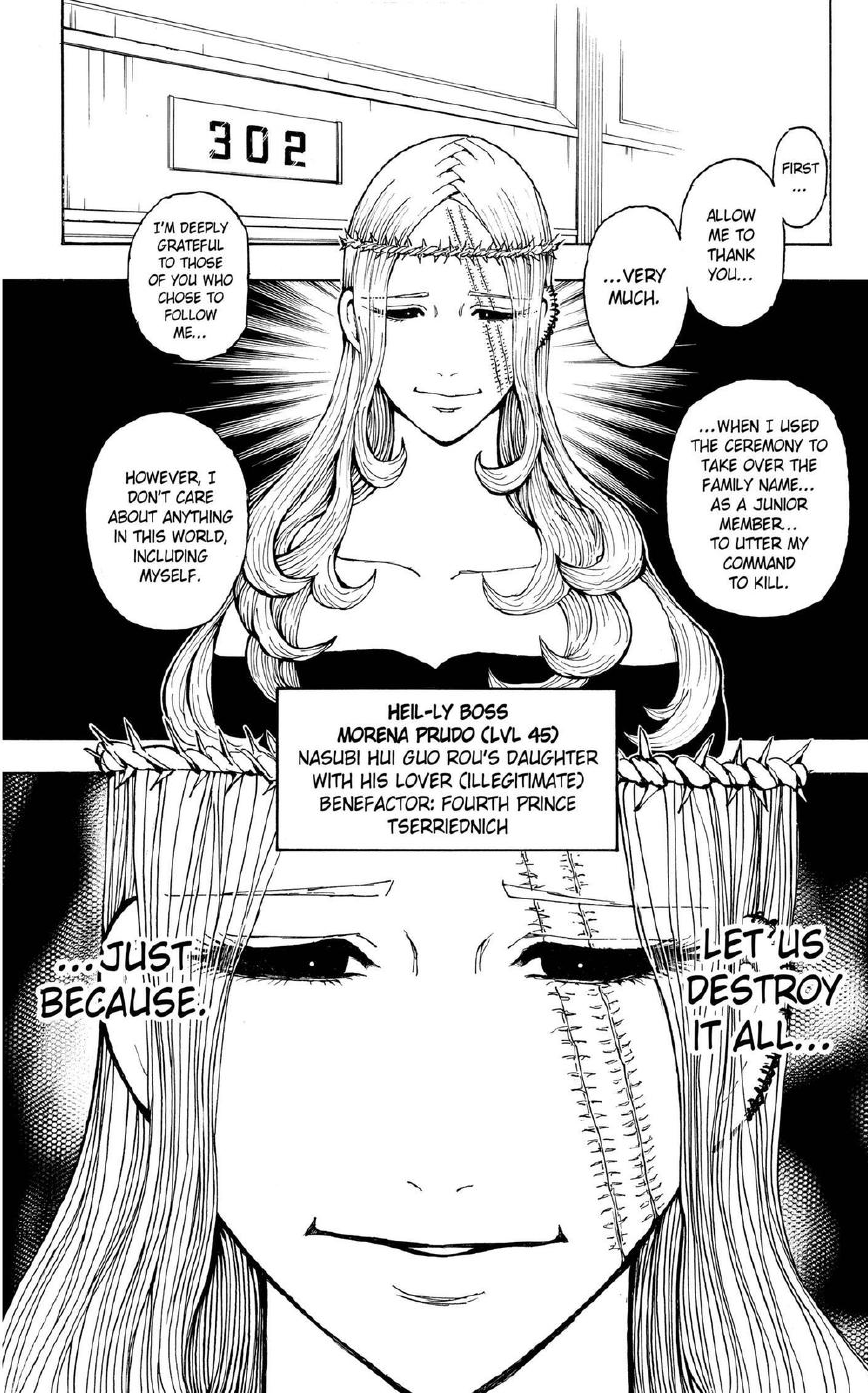

THE SPIDERS ...?
...
I SEE. THAT'S A PROBLEM.
BALANCE IS IMPORTANT.

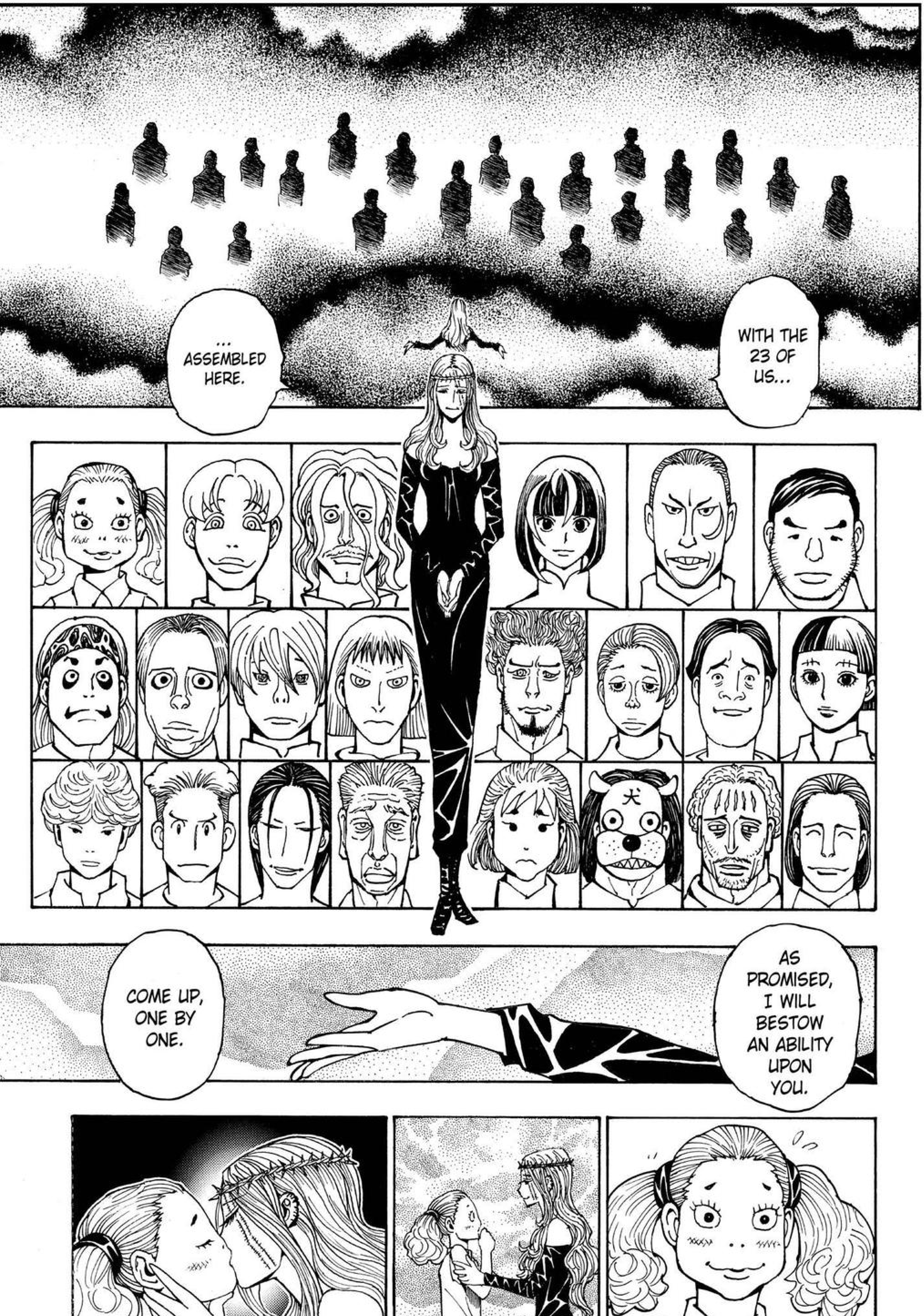

IF A RESOURCE IS LIMITED, THE MORE IT NEEDS TO BE DIVIDED, THE LESS OF A SHARE YOU GET.
FOR THE HAVES TO KEEP HAVING— THE MAJORITY NEED TO GET THE SHORT END OF THE STICK... THAT'S ***BALANCE***.
POWER WORKS THE SAME WAY. IN FACT, YOU NEED FINER CONTROL.
FROM EXTORTION TO WAR...
...FORCE IS THE MOST EFFECTIVE MEANS FOR THE QUICK REDISTRIBUTION OF WEALTH.
THE HAVE-NOTS MUST NOT BE GIVEN POWER.
XI-YU BOSS
ONIOR LONGBAO
NASUBI HUI GUO ROU'S HALF BROTHER
(ILLEGITIMATE)
BENEFACTOR: THIRD PRINCE ZHANG LEI

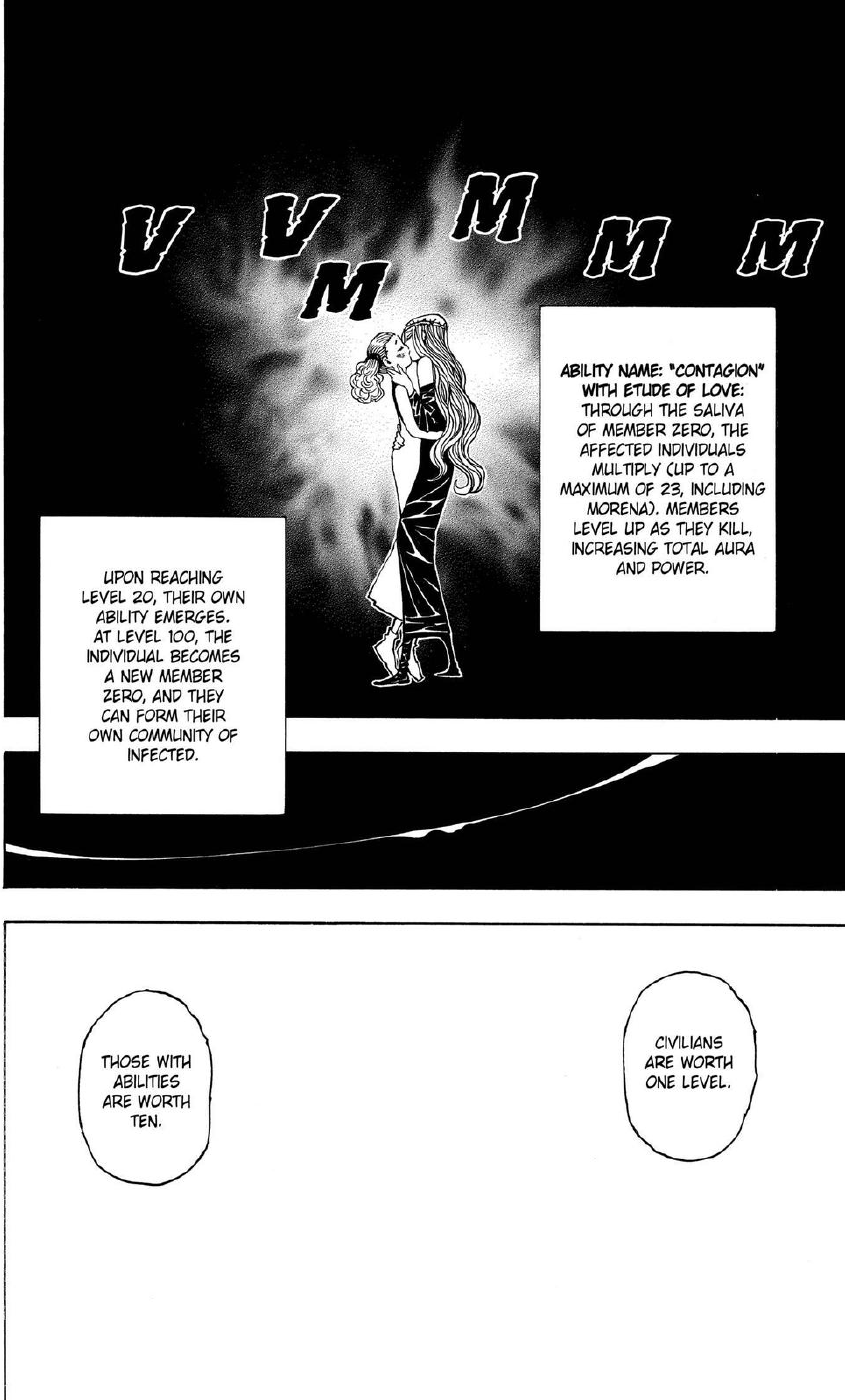

THEY LACK THE ETIQUETTE OF THOSE WITH POWER.
FREAKS WHO COULDN'T EVEN FIT INTO METEOR CITY.
IT'LL BE DIFFICULT TO CONTROL THEM.
SAVAGES WHO DON'T HIDE THEIR TALONS AND DON'T CARE ABOUT LIFE OR DEATH.
SOME OF MY YOUNG ASSOCIATES ARE ACTUALLY SECRET FANS OF THEIRS.
CHA-R BOSS BROCCO LI
NASUBI HUI GUO ROU'S HALF BROTHER (ILLEGITIMATE)
BENEFACTOR: SEVENTH PRINCE LUZURUS
HMPH... REMINDS ME SOMEONE SIMILAR PUSHED THE ENVELOPE TO BECOME BOSS.
WHAT DO YOU WANT ME TO SAY?
BIRDS OF A FEATHER WILL EVENTUALLY CLASH WITHOUT US LIFTING A FINGER.
WE WANT TO CONTROL THE "WHEN," RIGHT?
HEH HEH.

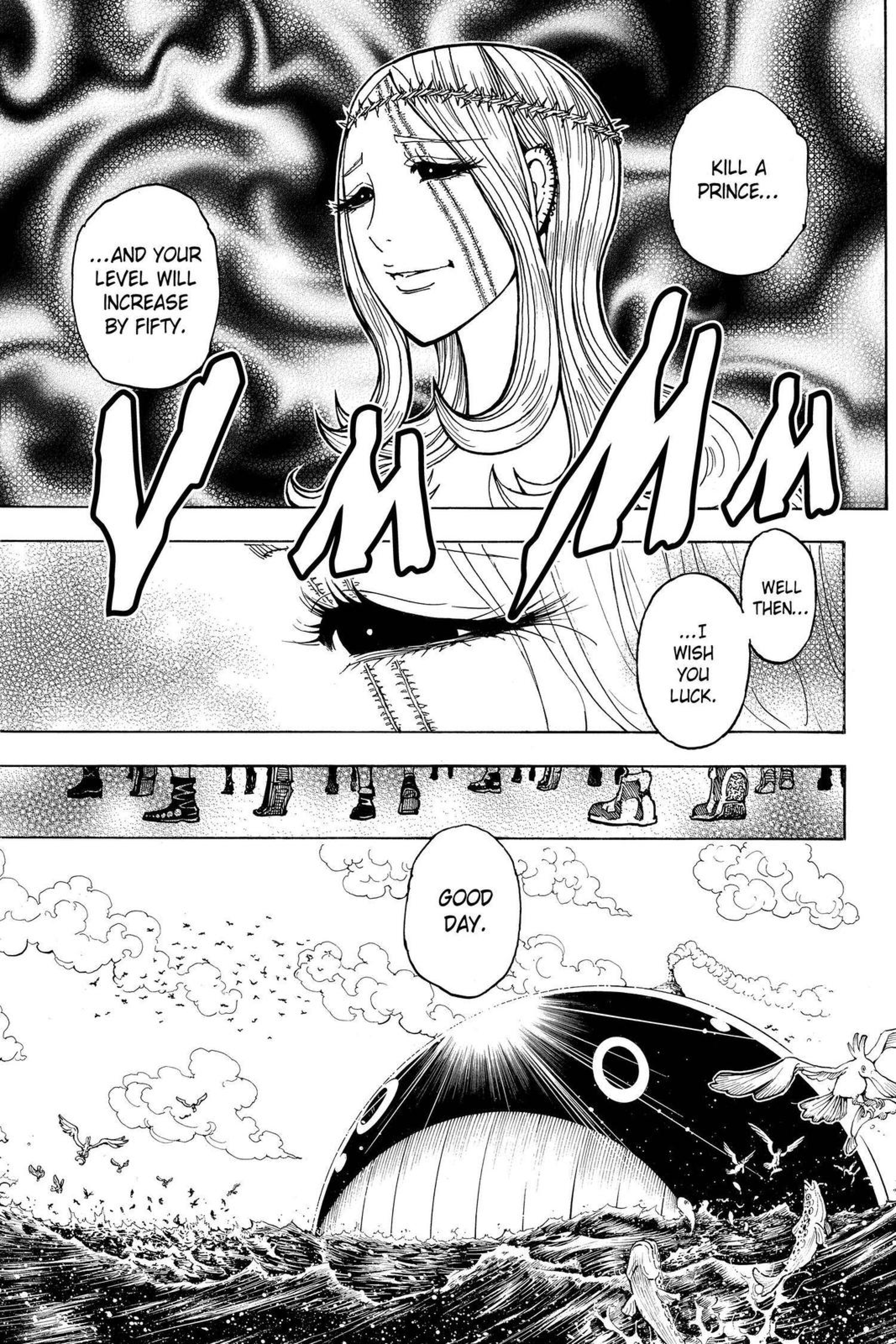

HEY.
SIR?
FIND HISOKA BEFORE THE SPIDERS DO!
CHA-R UNDERBOSS KEN'I WANG
XI-YU UNDERBOSS HINRIGH BIGANDUFFNO
YES SIR!

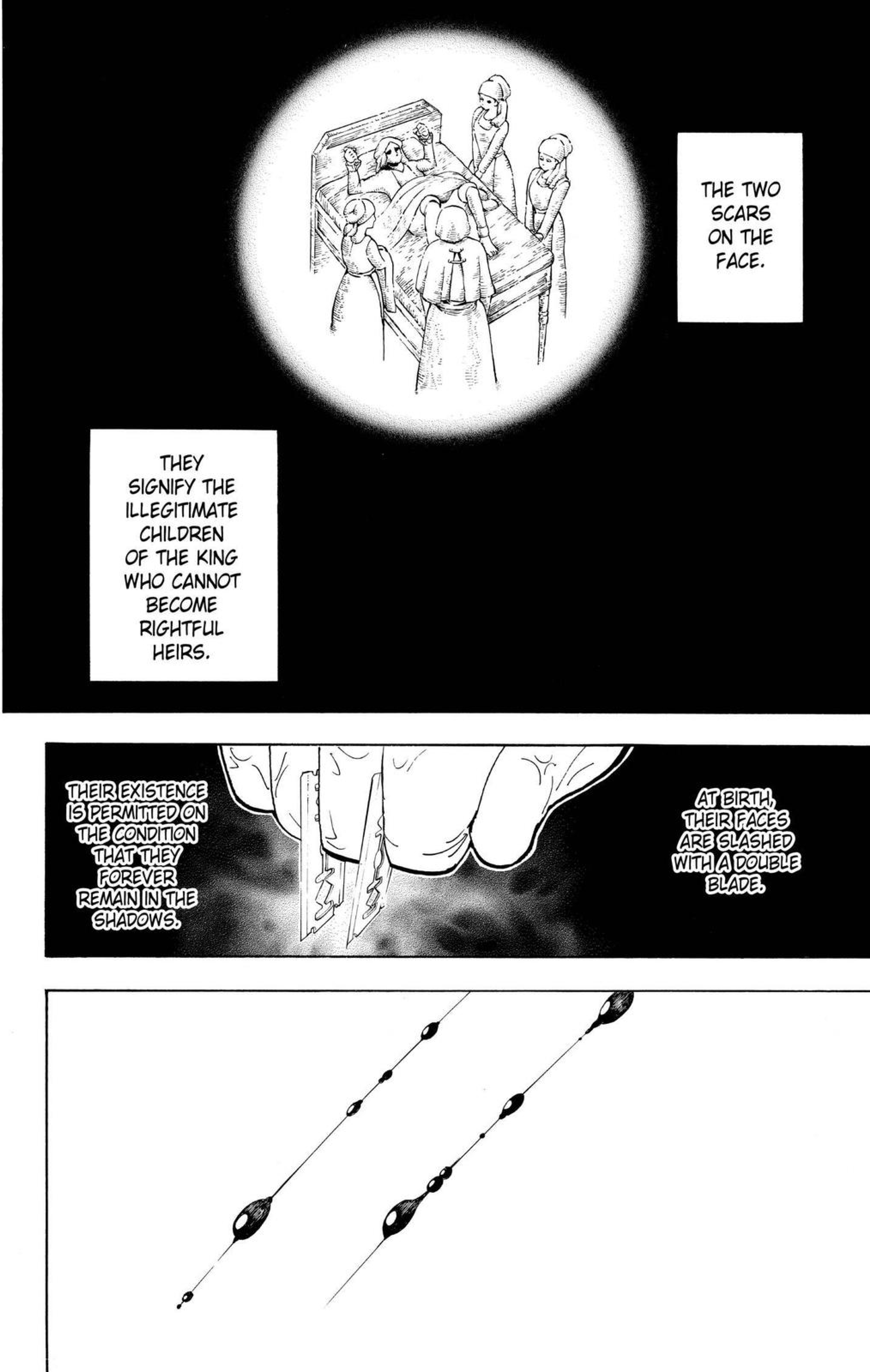

GATHER ALL GROUP LEADERS AND OFFER TEN MILLION TO ANYONE WITH USEFUL INFORMATION.
YES, SIR!
TEN MILLION TO ANYONE WHO FINDS HISOKA, AND ANOTHER TEN MILLION TO THE LEADER OF THAT AREA. USE YOUR CONNECTIONS AMONG THE LABORERS.
GET THE MANIFEST AND SEARCH THE LIST OF SINGLE MALE PASSENGERS.
YES, SIR.
IF HE'S NOT THERE, LOOK THROUGH FAMILIES OF MORE THAN THREE, INCLUDING ELDERLY AND CHILDREN.
BOSS... HISOKA'S A FLOOR MASTER AT THE HEAVENS ARENA.
I KNOW.
HE PROBABLY HAS A SCORE TO SETTLE FROM THAT TIME WITH THE LEADER OF THE SPIDERS.
I DON'T KNOW IF WE COULD CAPTURE HIM.
IDIOT, WHO ASKED FOR THAT?
I GET THE FIRST BUT WHY THE OTHER?
BECAUSE IT'S THE LEAST LIKELY.
IF WE DON'T GET A HIT AMONG LONE TRAVELERS, THAT MEANS HE'S PROPERLY VIGILANT AND OBVIOUSLY TAKING PRECAUTIONS.
BUT MOST LIKELY HE'S STOWED AWAY... DIFFICULT TO PULL OFF, BUT HARDEST TO CATCH ONCE HE'S IN.
ASK THE QUEEN TO GET THE SOLDIERS TO DO A ROUND OF I.D. AND TICKET VERIFICATION.
FIND HIM. I'LL TAKE CARE OF THE REST!

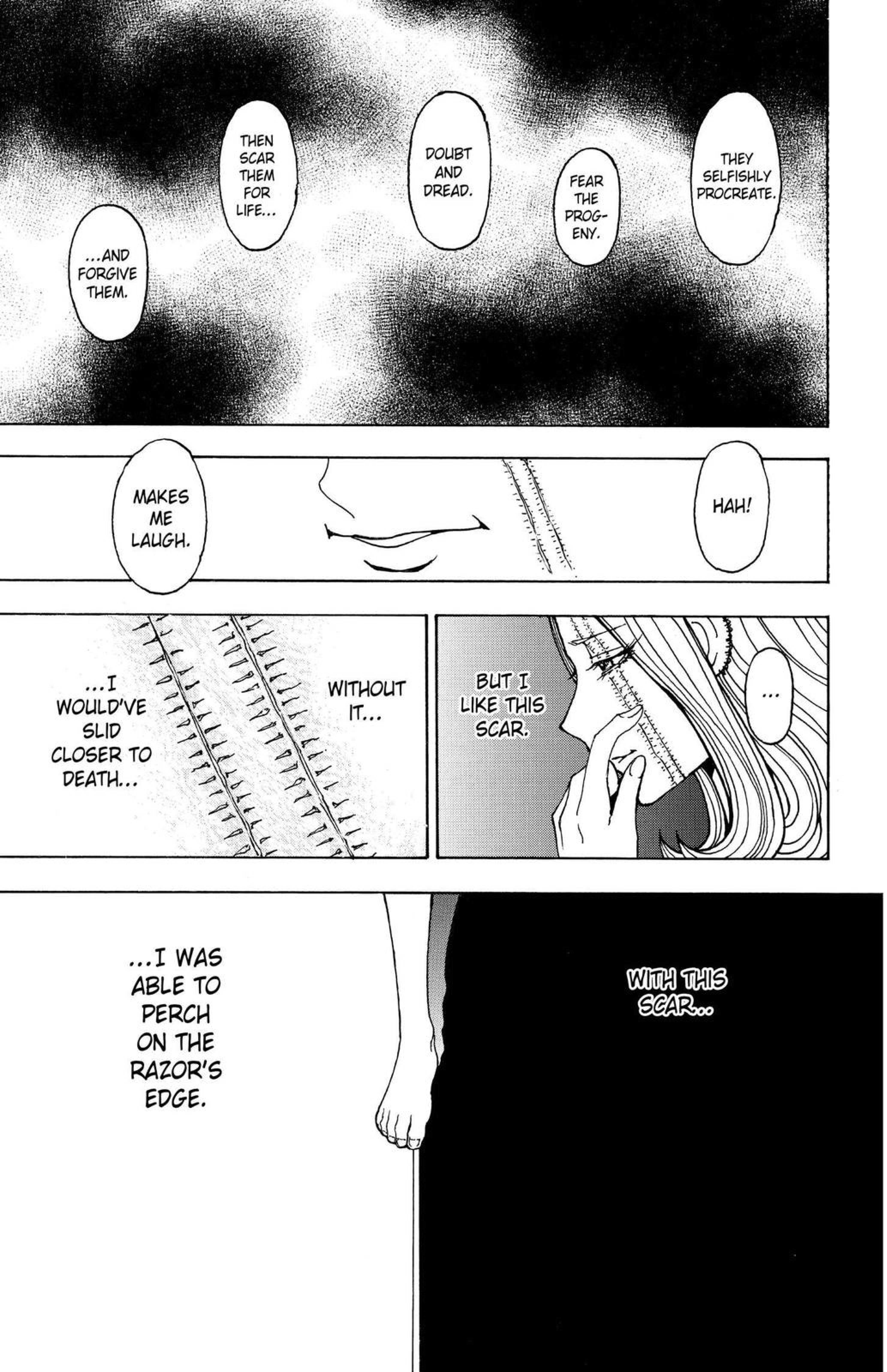

302
FIRST ...
ALLOW ME TO THANK YOU...
...VERY MUCH.
I'M DEEPLY GRATEFUL TO THOSE OF YOU WHO CHOSE TO FOLLOW ME...
...WHEN I USED THE CEREMONY TO TAKE OVER THE FAMILY NAME... AS A JUNIOR MEMBER.. TO UTTER MY COMMAND TO KILL.
HOWEVER, I DON'T CARE ABOUT ANYTHING IN THIS WORLD, INCLUDING MYSELF.
HEIL-LY BOSS
MORENA PRUDO (LVL 45)
NASUBI HUI GUO ROU'S DAUGHTER WITH HIS LOVER (ILLEGITIMATE)
BENEFACTOR: FOURTH PRINCE TSERRIEDNICH
LET US DESTROY IT ALL...
...JUST BECAUSE.

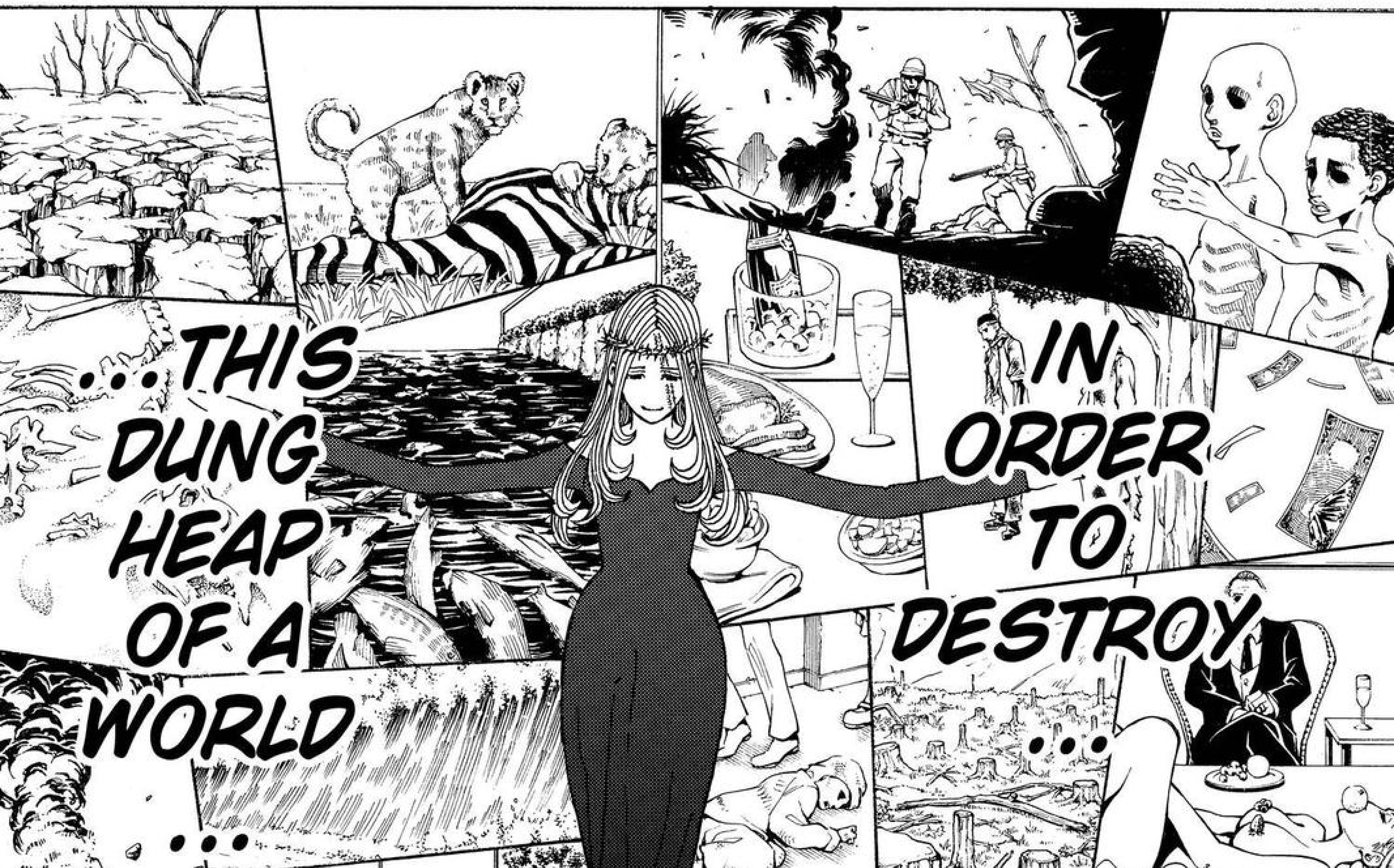

WITH THE 23 OF US...
... ASSEMBLED HERE.
AS PROMISED, I WILL BESTOW AN ABILITY UPON YOU.
COME UP, ONE BY ONE.

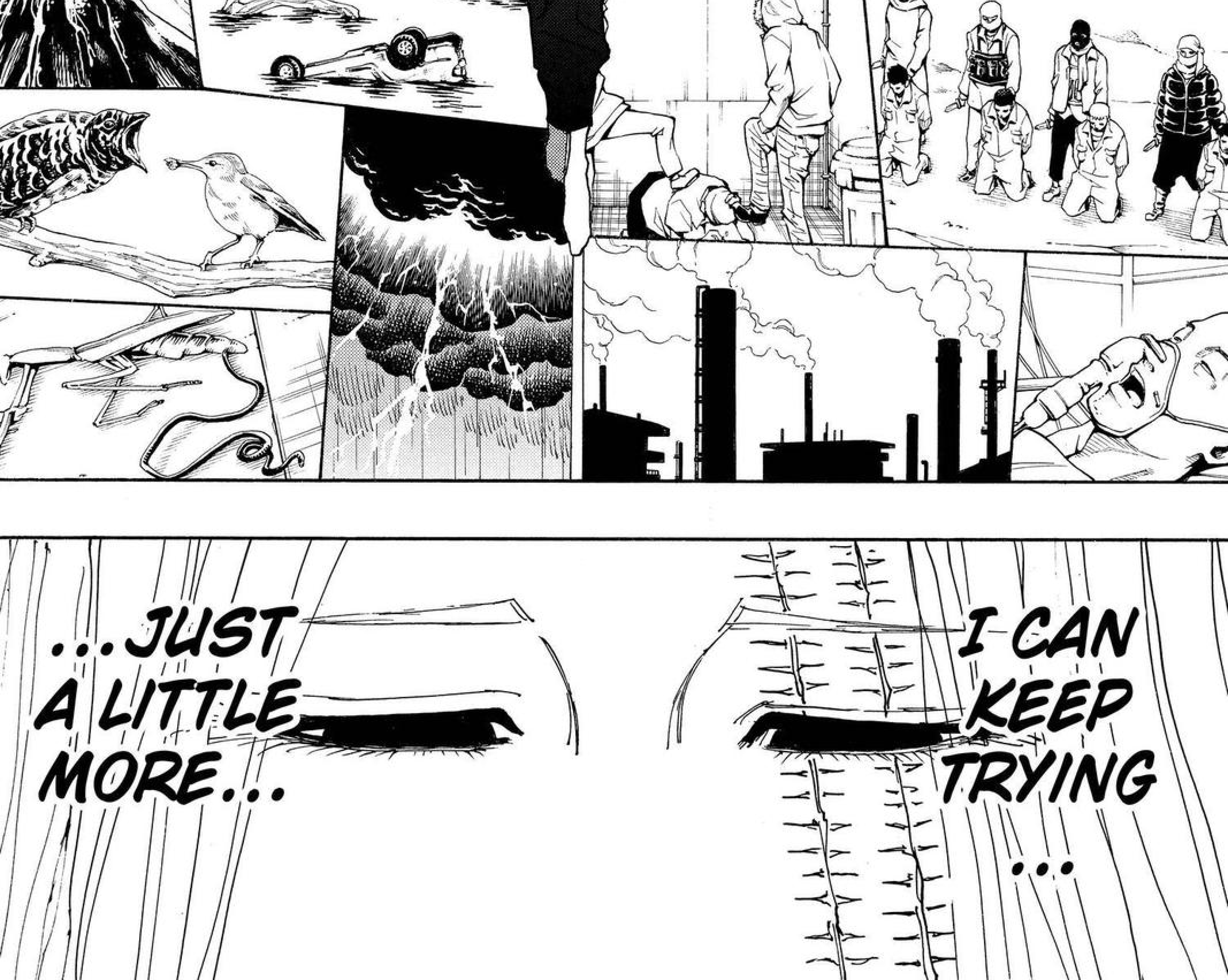

VVMMMM
ABILITY NAME: "CONTAGION" WITH ETUDE OF LOVE: THROUGH THE SALIVA OF MEMBER ZERO, THE AFFECTED INDIVIDUALS MULTIPLY (UP TO A MAXIMUM OF 23, INCLUDING MORENA). MEMBERS LEVEL UP AS THEY KILL, INCREASING TOTAL AURA AND POWER.
UPON REACHING LEVEL 20, THEIR OWN ABILITY EMERGES. AT LEVEL 100, THE INDIVIDUAL BECOMES A NEW MEMBER ZERO, AND THEY CAN FORM THEIR OWN COMMUNITY OF INFECTED.
CIVILIANS ARE WORTH ONE LEVEL.
THOSE WITH ABILITIES ARE WORTH TEN.

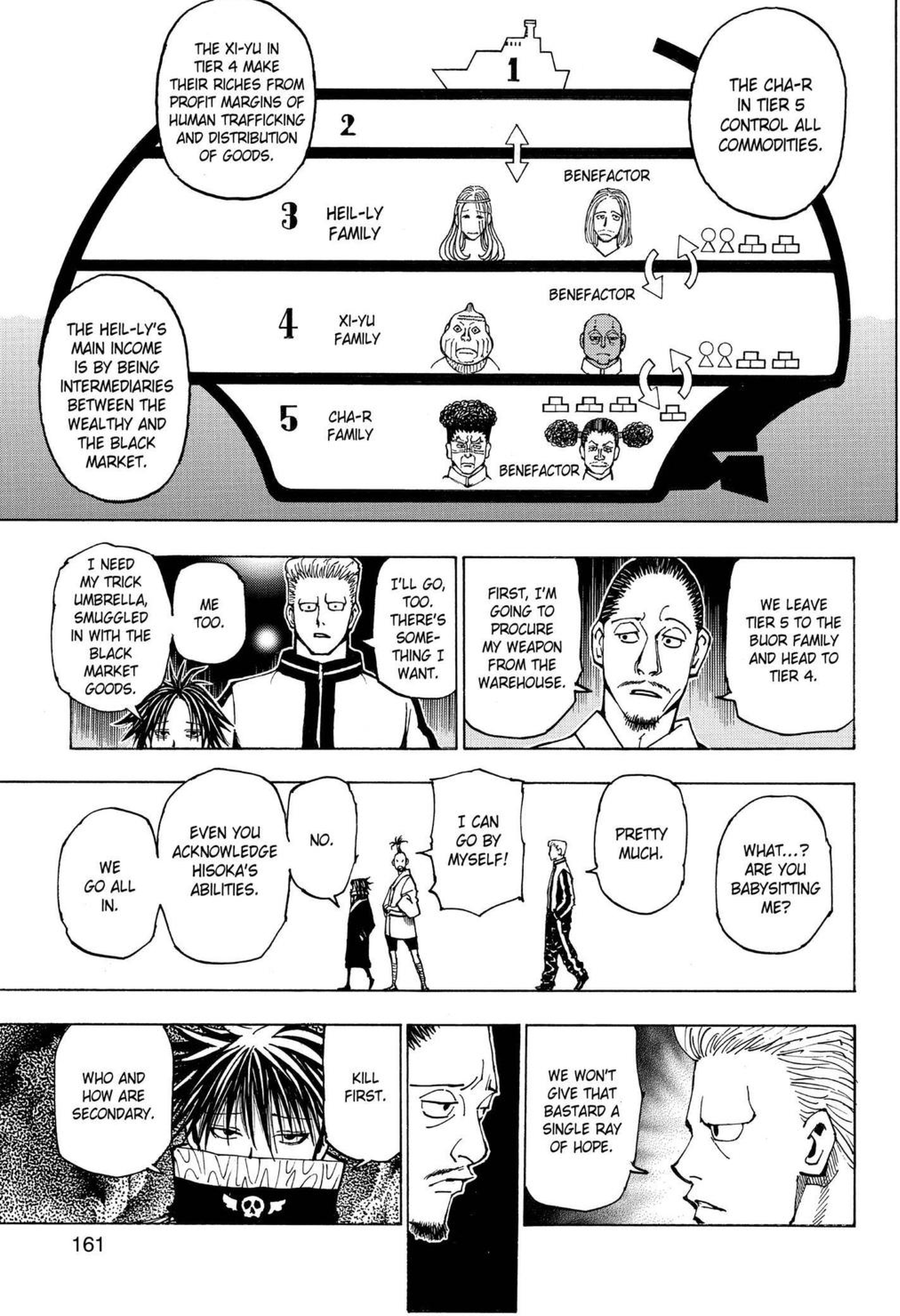

KILL A PRINCE...
...AND YOUR LEVEL WILL INCREASE BY FIFTY.
VMMM
WELL THEN...
...I WISH YOU LUCK.
GOOD DAY.

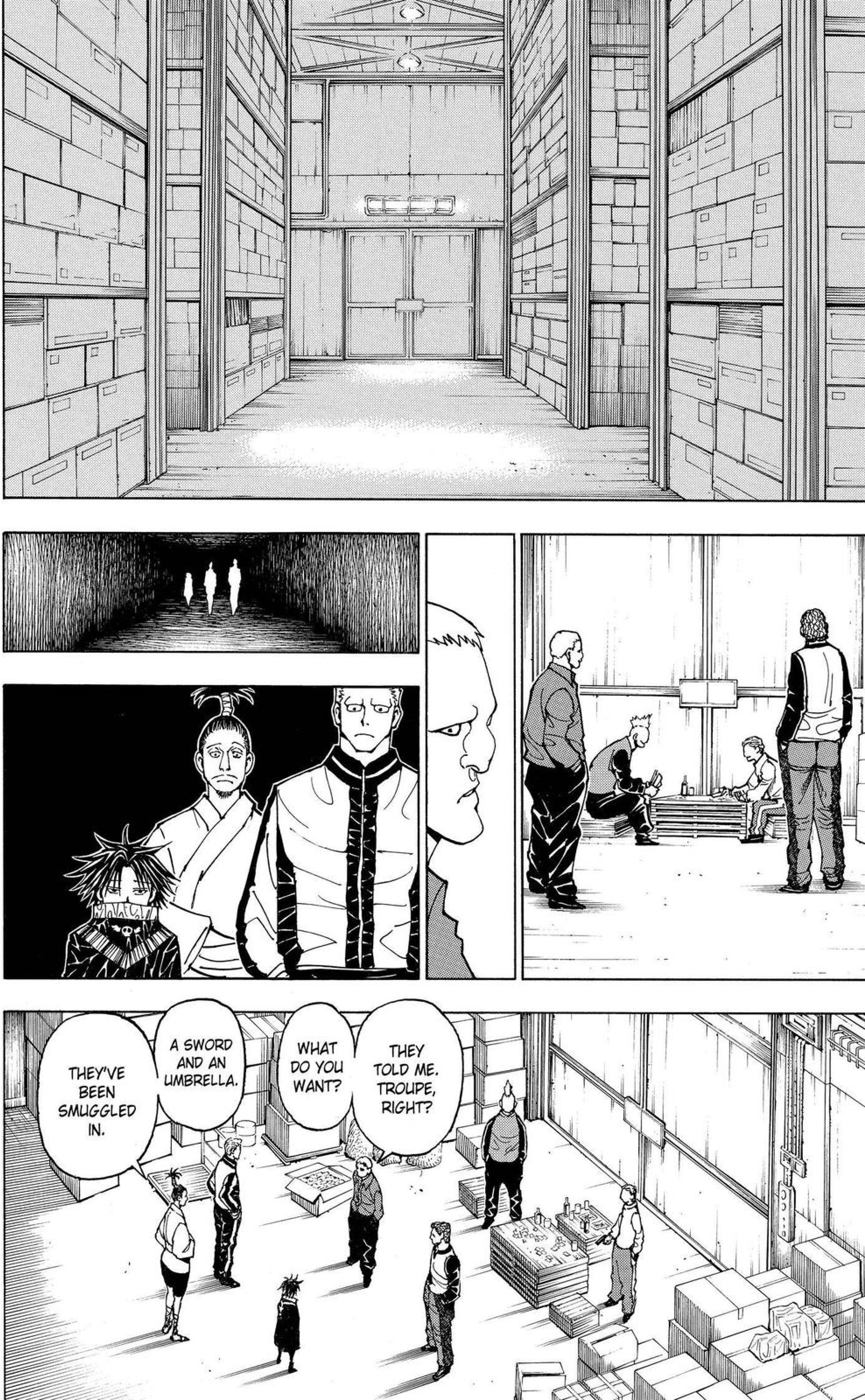

THE TWO SCARS ON THE FACE.
THEY SIGNIFY THE ILLEGITIMATE CHILDREN OF THE KING WHO CANNOT BECOME RIGHTFUL HEIRS.
AT BIRTH, THEIR FACES ARE SLASHED WITH A DOUBLE BLADE.
THEIR EXISTENCE IS PERMITTED ON THE CONDITION THAT THEY FOREVER REMAIN IN THE SHADOWS.

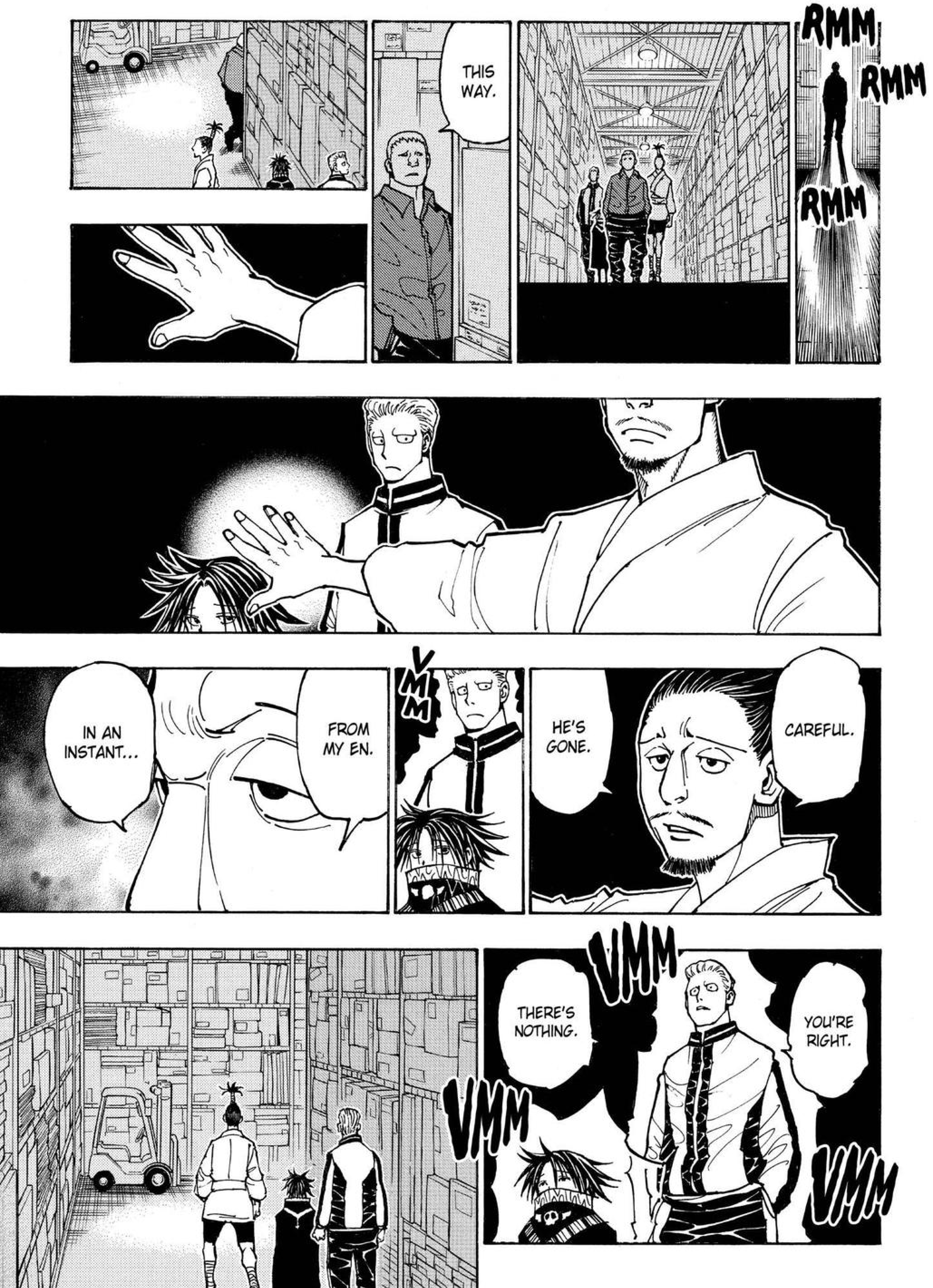

THEY SELFISHLY PROCREATE.
FEAR THE PROGENY.
DOUBT AND DREAD.
THEN SCAR THEM FOR LIFE...
...AND FORGIVE THEM.
HAH!
MAKES ME LAUGH.
...
BUT I LIKE THIS SCAR.
WITHOUT IT...
...I WOULD'VE SLID CLOSER TO DEATH...
WITH THIS SCAR...
...I WAS ABLE TO PERCH ON THE RAZOR'S EDGE.

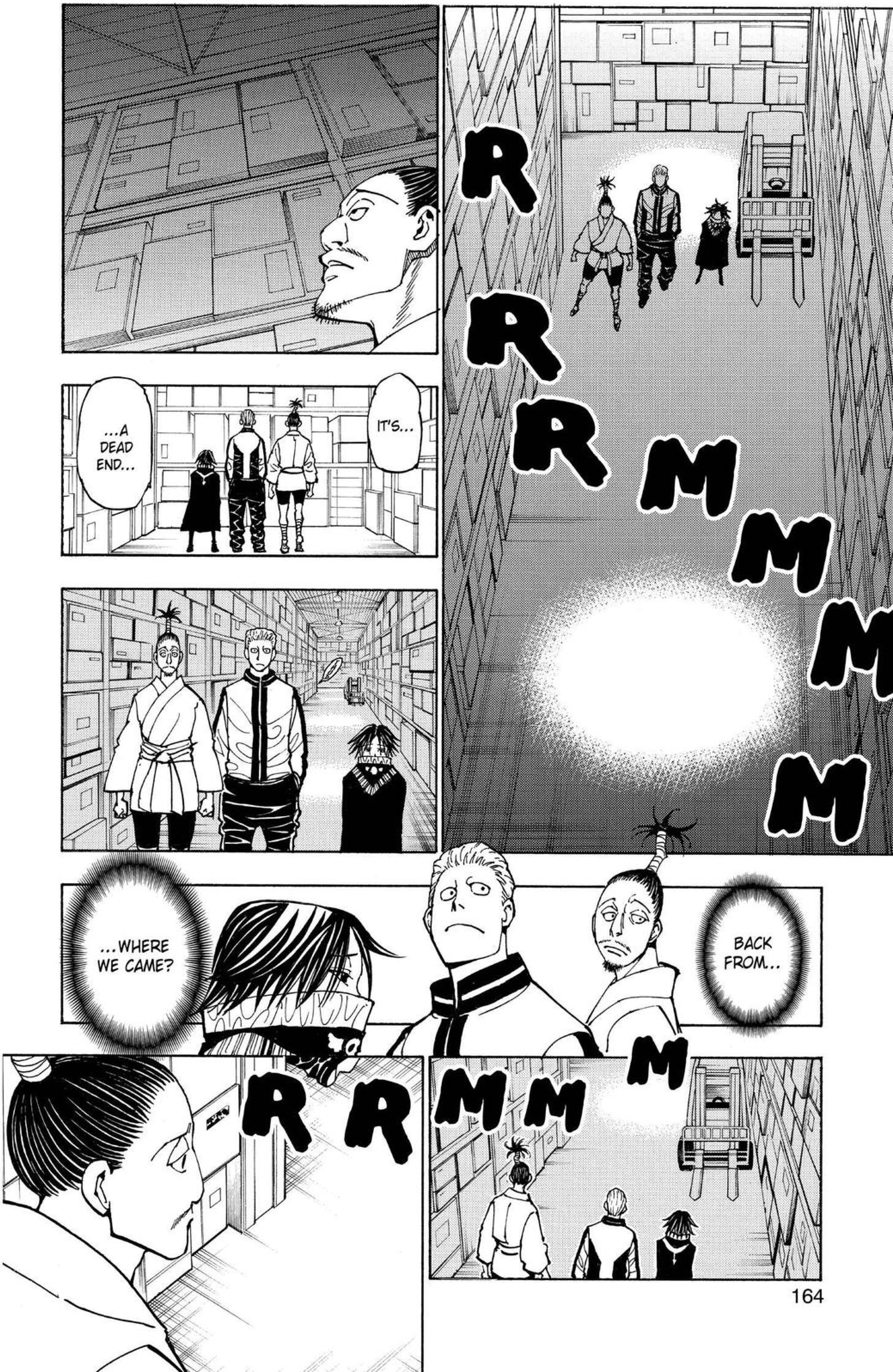

IN ORDER TO DESTROY...
...THIS DUNG HEAP OF A WORLD...

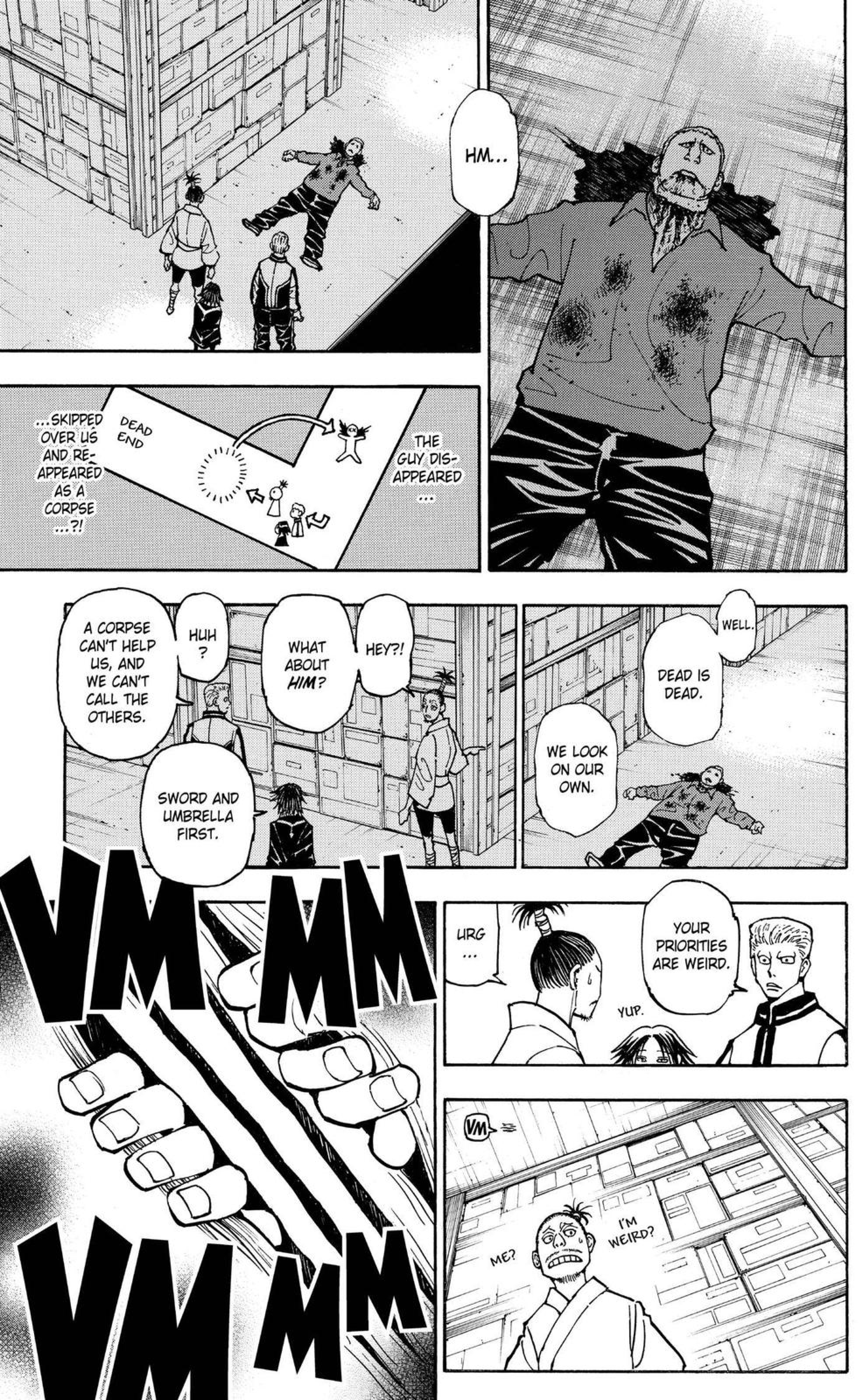

I CAN KEEP TRYING...
...JUST A LITTLE MORE...

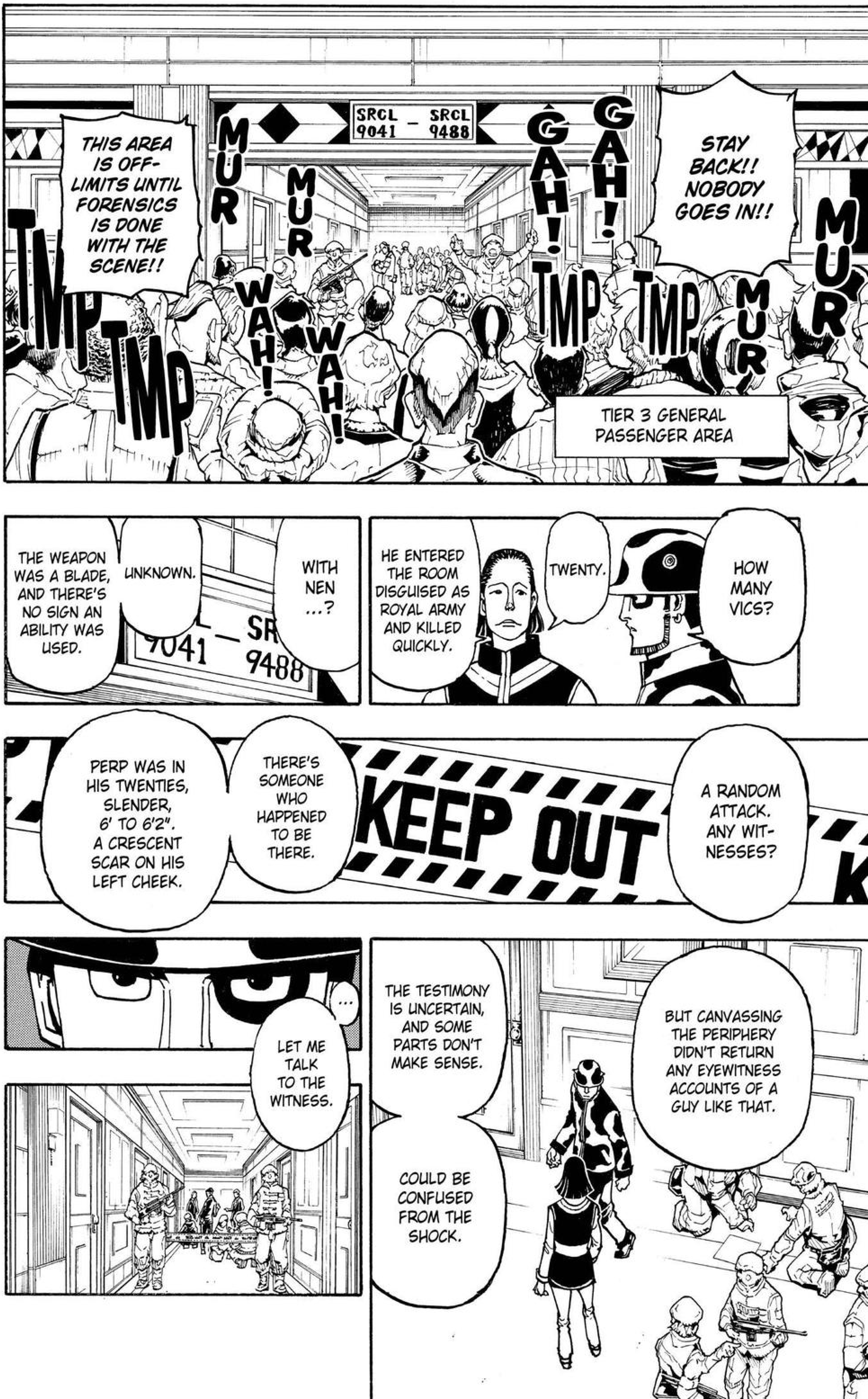

THE CHA-R IN TIER 5 CONTROL ALL COMMODITIES.
THE XI-YU IN TIER 4 MAKE THEIR RICHES FROM PROFIT MARGINS OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING AND DISTRIBUTION OF GOODS.
1
2
3
HEIL-LY FAMILY
BENEFACTOR
4
XI-YU FAMILY
BENEFACTOR
5
CHA-R FAMILY
BENEFACTOR
THE HEIL-LY'S MAIN INCOME IS BY BEING INTERMEDIARIES BETWEEN THE WEALTHY AND THE BLACK MARKET.
WE LEAVE TIER 5 TO THE BUOR FAMILY AND HEAD TO TIER 4.
FIRST, I'M GOING TO PROCURE MY WEAPON FROM THE WAREHOUSE.
I'LL GO, TOO. THERE'S SOMETHING I WANT.
ME TOO.
I NEED MY TRICK UMBRELLA, SMUGGLED IN WITH THE BLACK MARKET GOODS.
WHAT...? ARE YOU BABYSITTING ME?
PRETTY MUCH.
I CAN GO BY MYSELF!
NO.
EVEN YOU ACKNOWLEDGE HISOKA'S ABILITIES.
WE GO ALL IN.
WE WON'T GIVE THAT BASTARD A SINGLE RAY OF HOPE.
KILL FIRST.
WHO AND HOW ARE SECONDARY.

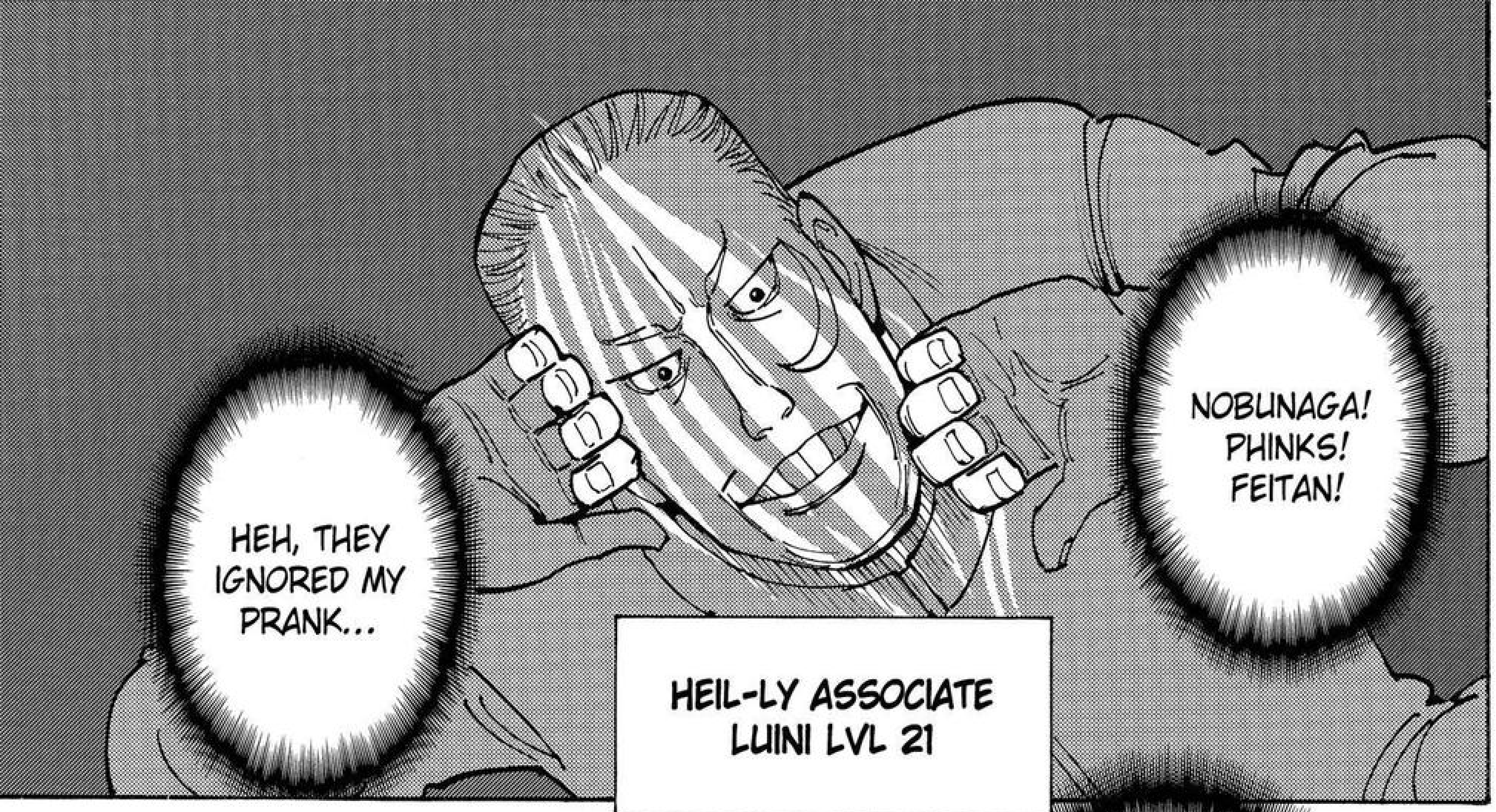

THEY TOLD ME. TROUPE, RIGHT?
WHAT DO YOU WANT?
A SWORD AND AN UMBRELLA.
THEY'VE BEEN SMUGGLED IN.

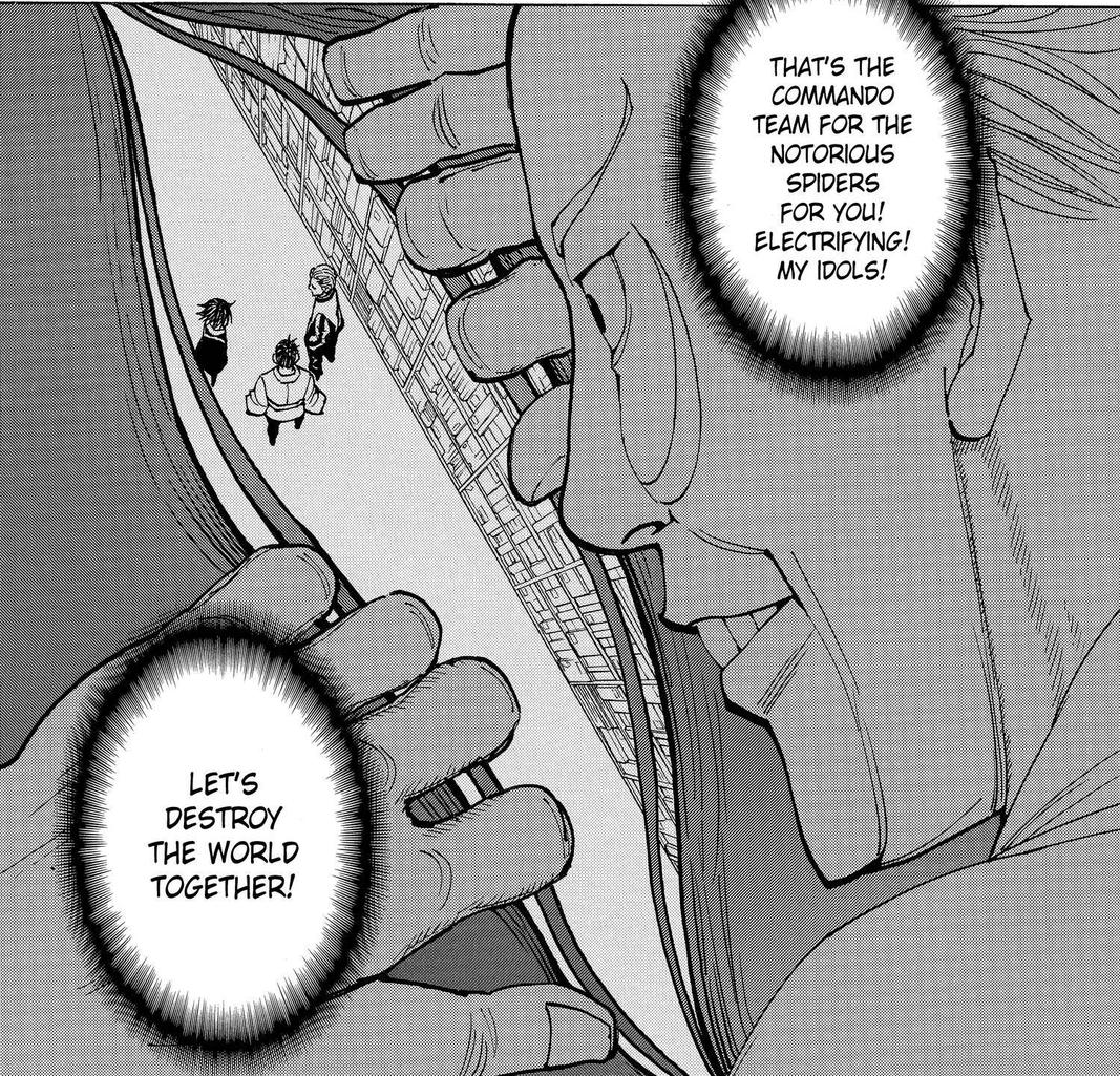

RMM
RMM
RMM
THIS WAY.
CAREFUL.
HE'S GONE.
VMM
FROM MY EN.
IN AN INSTANT…
YOU'RE RIGHT.
VMM
VMM
VMM
THERE'S NOTHING.

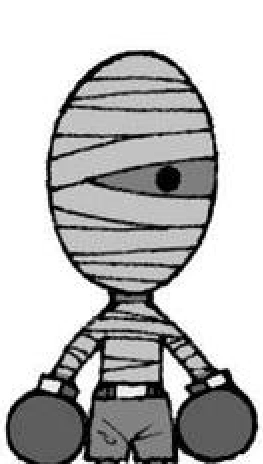

RRRMMMM
IT'S...
...A DEAD END...
BACK FROM...
...WHERE WE CAME?
RRMMM


HM...
THE GUY DISAPPEARED...
DEAD END
...SKIPPED OVER US AND REAPPEARED AS A CORPSE...?!
WELL.
DEAD IS DEAD.
WE LOOK ON OUR OWN.
HEY?!
WHAT ABOUT *HIM*?
HUH?
A CORPSE CAN'T HELP US, AND WE CAN'T CALL THE OTHERS.
SWORD AND UMBRELLA FIRST.
YOUR PRIORITIES ARE WEIRD.
YUP.
URG...
VM
I'M WEIRD?
ME?
VMMM
VMMM

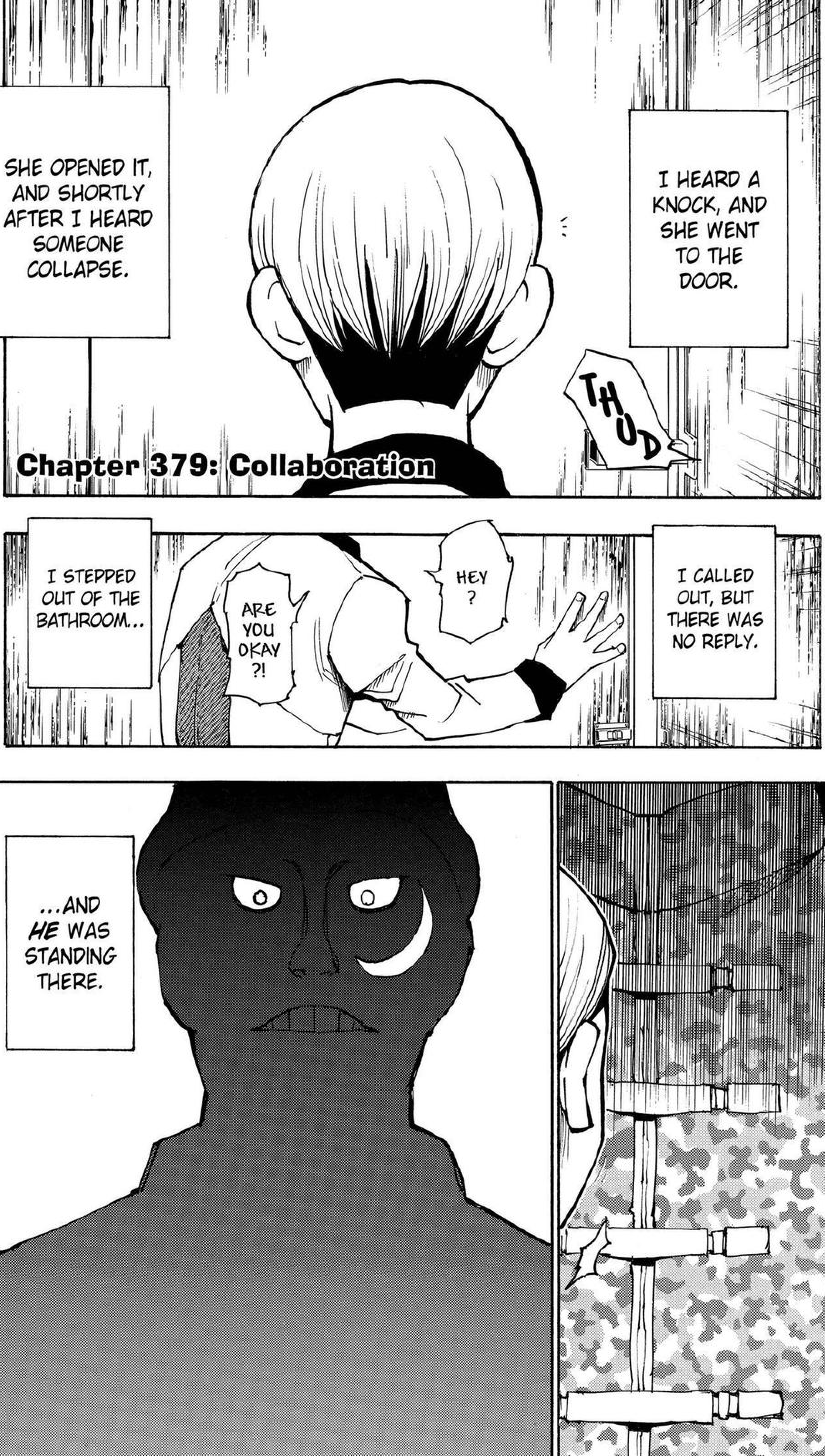

SRCL 9041 _ SRCL 9488
TIER 3 GENERAL PASSENGER AREA
STAY BACK!! NOBODY GOES IN!!
MUR
MUR
GAH!
GAH!
TMP
TMP
WAH!
WAH!
MUR
MUR
THIS AREA IS OFF-LIMITS UNTIL FORENSICS IS DONE WITH THE SCENE!!
TMP
TMP
HOW MANY VICS?
TWENTY.
HE ENTERED THE ROOM DISGUISED AS ROYAL ARMY AND KILLED QUICKLY.
WITH NEN ...?
UNKNOWN.
THE WEAPON WAS A BLADE, AND THERE'S NO SIGN AN ABILITY WAS USED.
A RANDOM ATTACK. ANY WITNESSES?
KEEP OUT
THERE'S SOMEONE WHO HAPPENED TO BE THERE.
PERP WAS IN HIS TWENTIES, SLENDER, 6' TO 6'2". A CRESCENT SCAR ON HIS LEFT CHEEK.
THE TESTIMONY IS UNCERTAIN, AND SOME PARTS DON'T MAKE SENSE.
BUT CANVASSING THE PERIPHERY DIDN'T RETURN ANY EYEWITNESS ACCOUNTS OF A GUY LIKE THAT.
COULD BE CONFUSED FROM THE SHOCK.
...
LET ME TALK TO THE WITNESS.

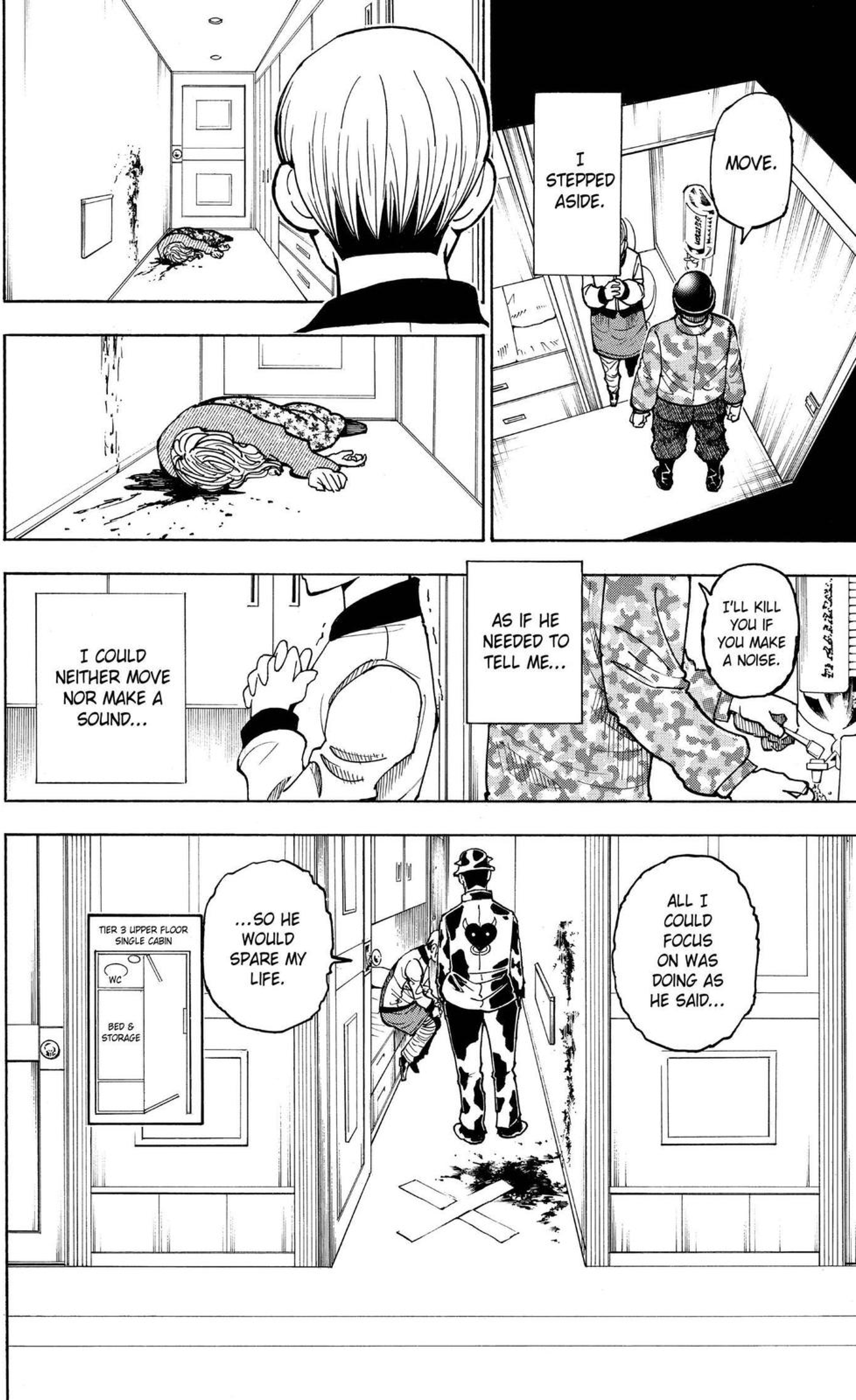

NOBUNAGA! PHINKS! FEITAN!
HEH, THEY IGNORED MY PRANK...
HEIL-LY ASSOCIATE LUINI LVL 21

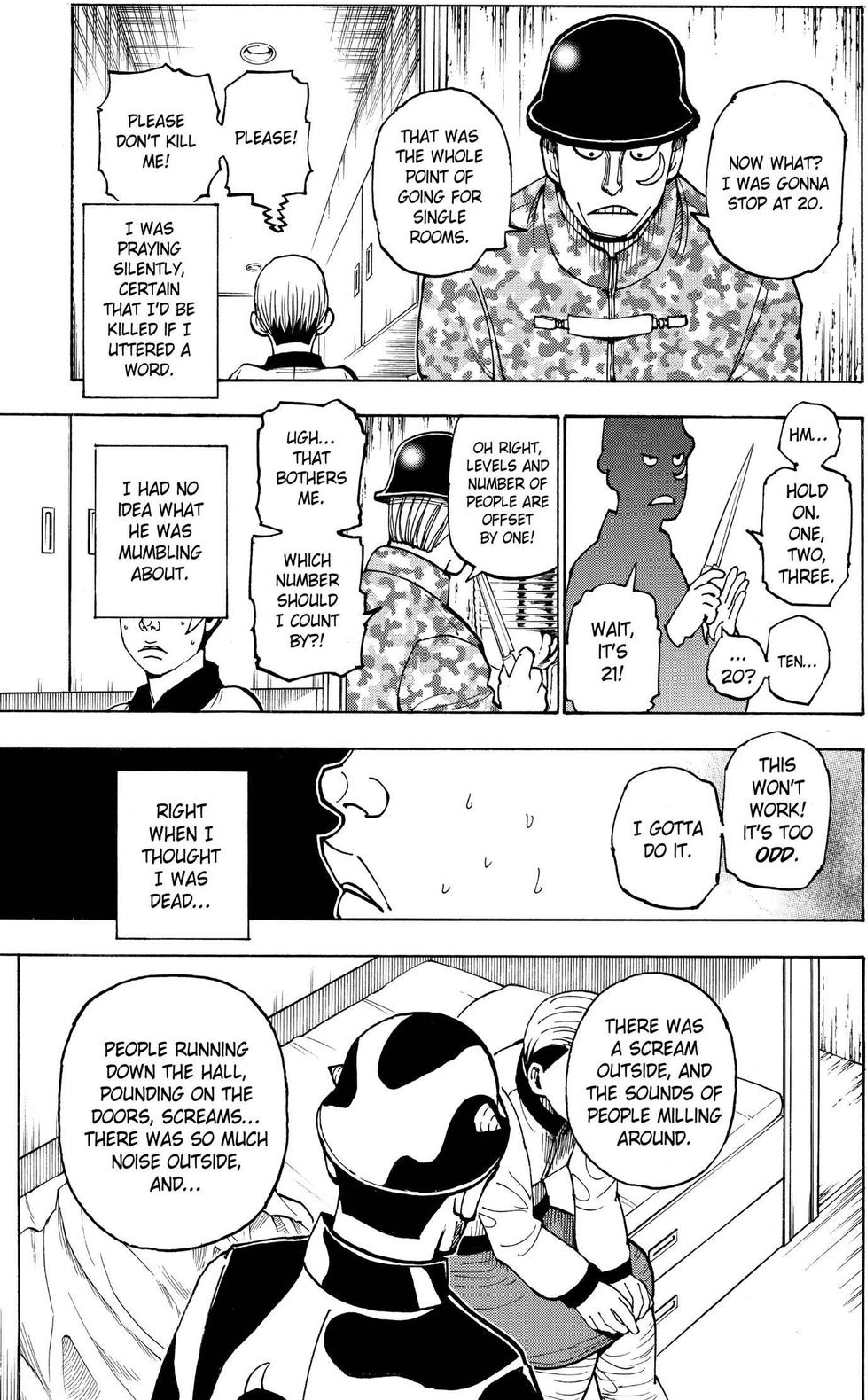

THAT'S THE COMMANDO TEAM FOR THE NOTORIOUS SPIDERS FOR YOU! ELECTRIFYING! MY IDOLS!
LET'S DESTROY THE WORLD TOGETHER!

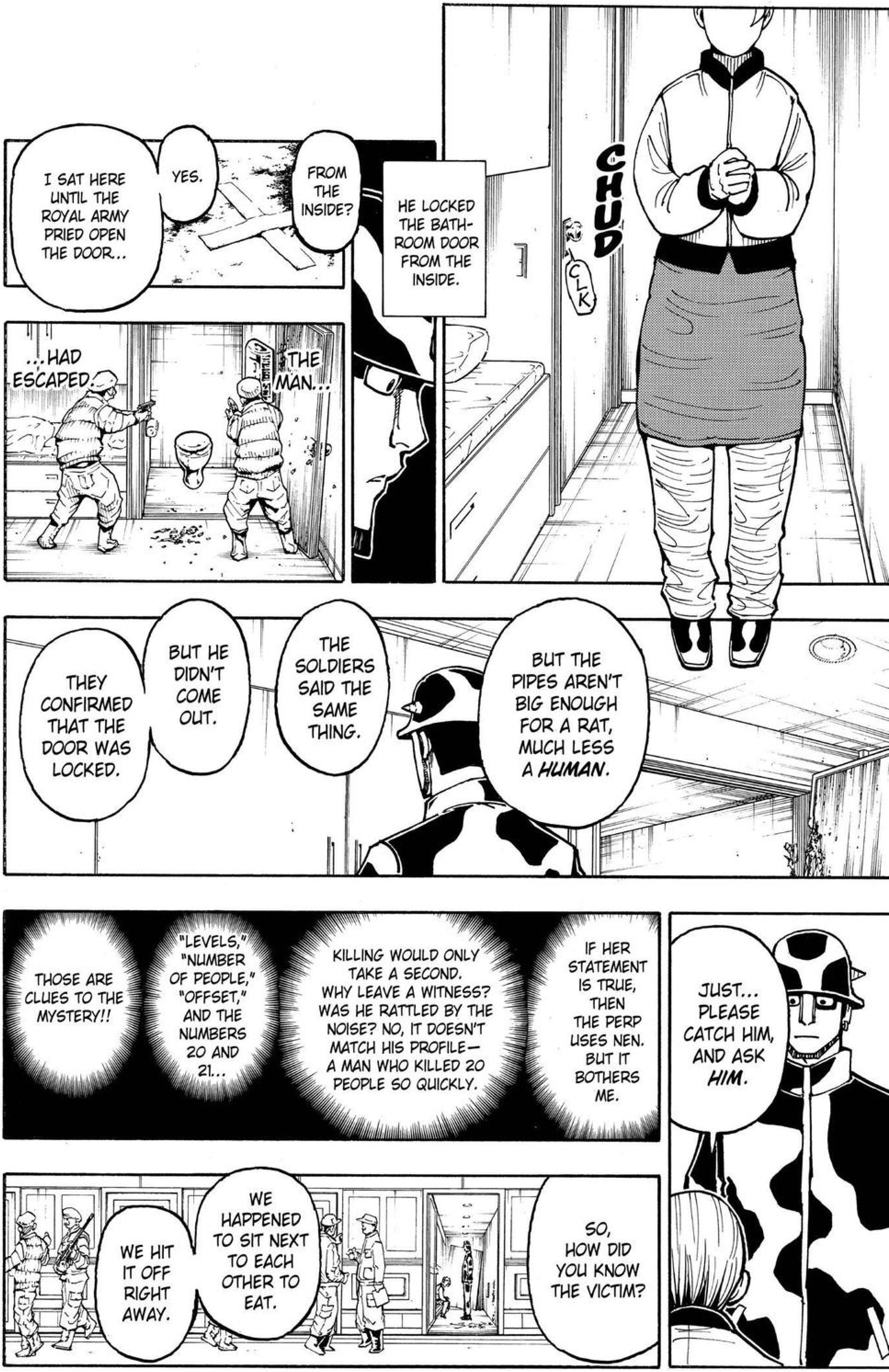


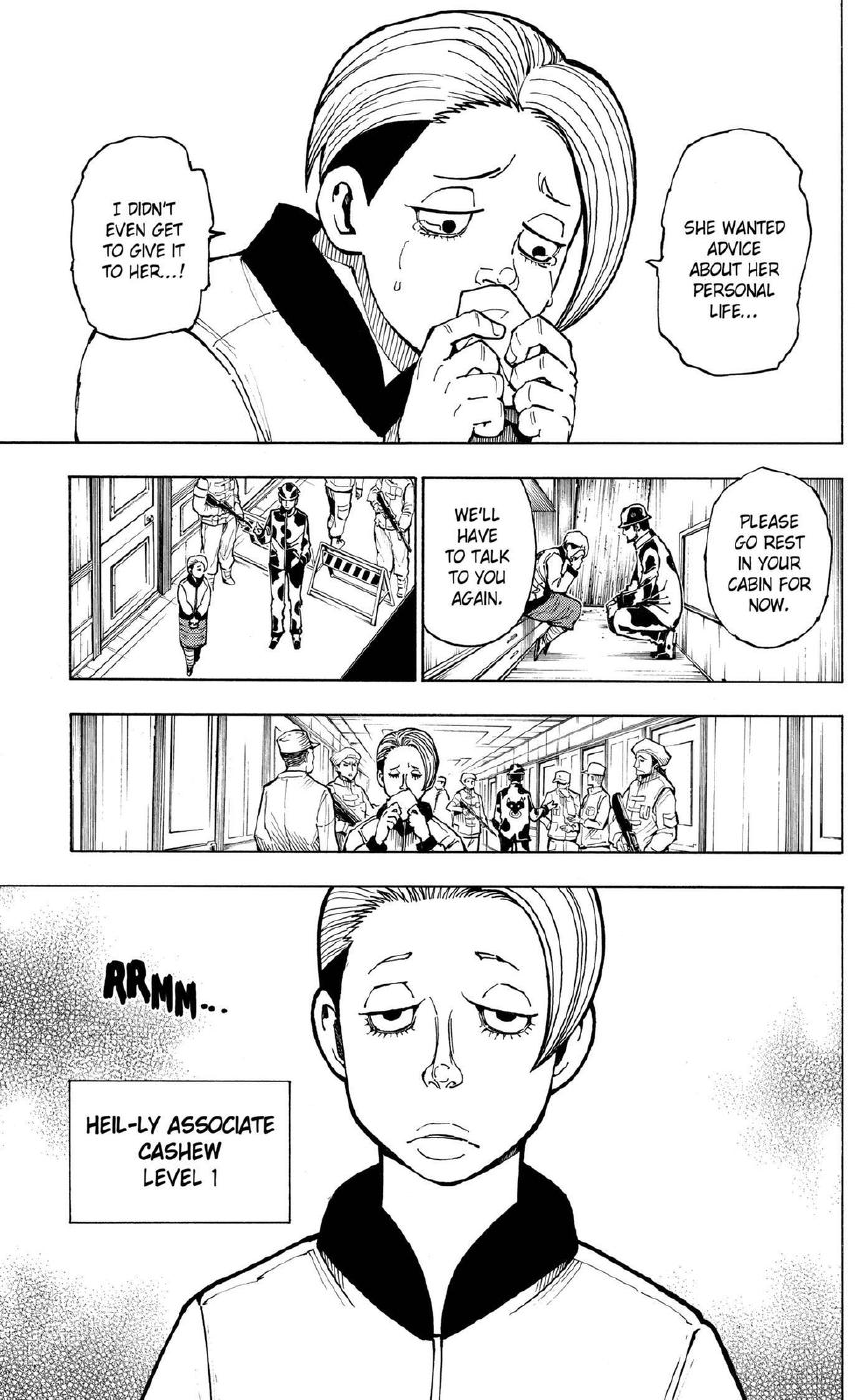
Chapter 379: Collaboration

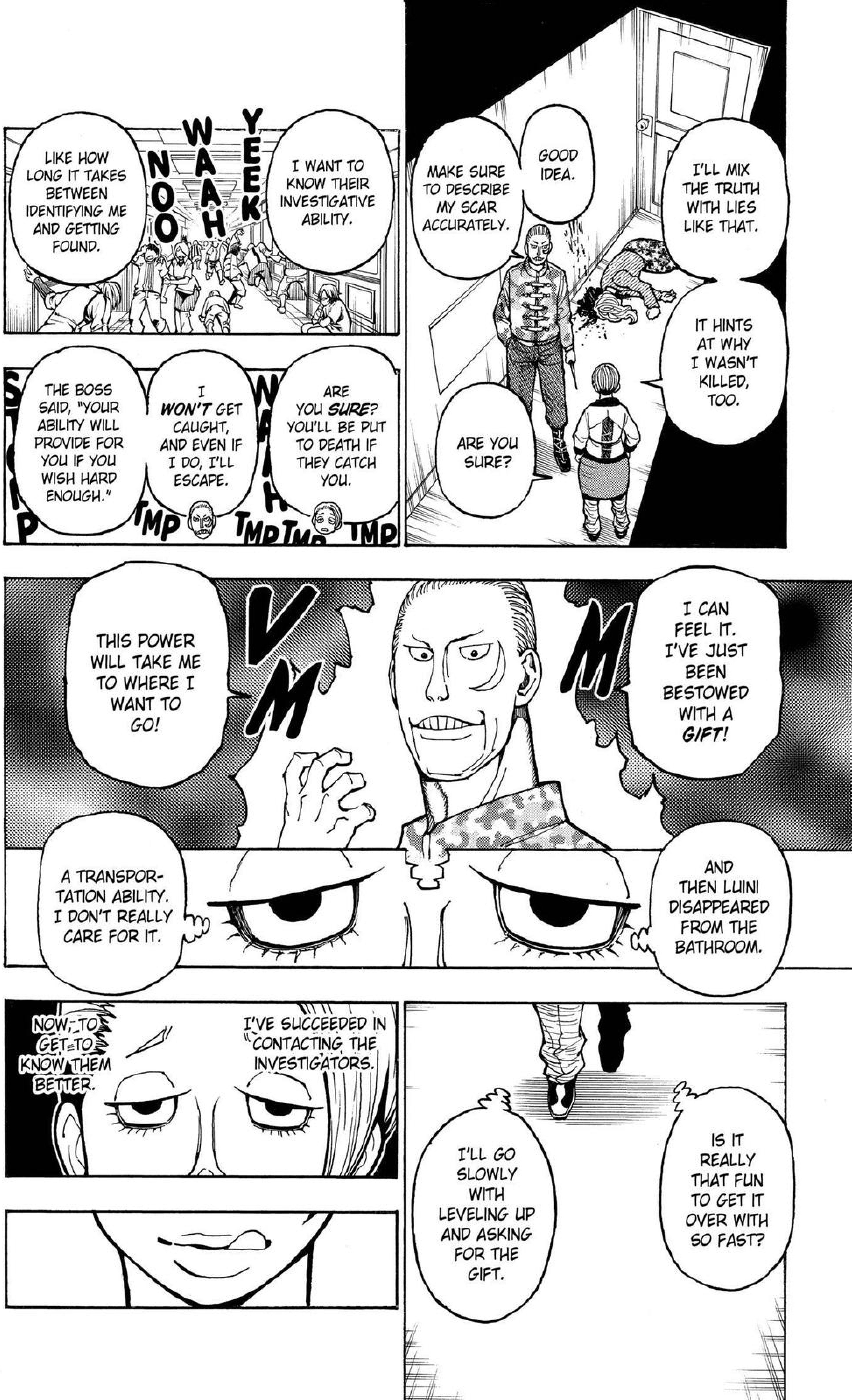

I HEARD A KNOCK, AND SHE WENT TO THE DOOR.
THUD
SHE OPENED IT, AND SHORTLY AFTER I HEARD SOMEONE COLLAPSE.
I CALLED OUT, BUT THERE WAS NO REPLY.
HEY?
ARE YOU OKAY?!
I STEPPED OUT OF THE BATHROOM...
...AND *HE* WAS STANDING THERE.

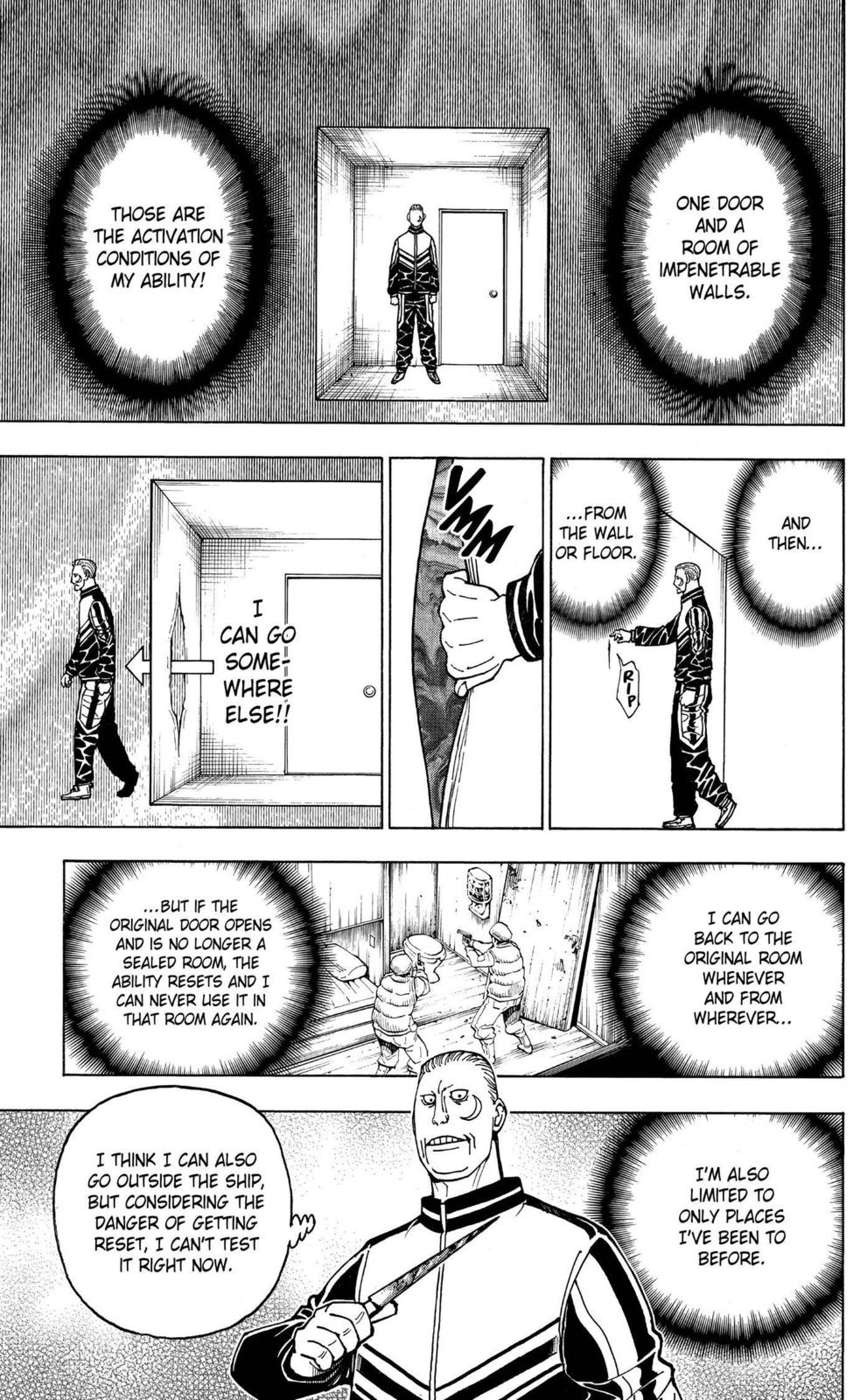

MOVE.
I STEPPED ASIDE.
I'LL KILL YOU IF YOU MAKE A NOISE.
AS IF HE NEEDED TO TELL ME...
I COULD NEITHER MOVE NOR MAKE A SOUND...
ALL I COULD FOCUS ON WAS DOING AS HE SAID...
...SO HE WOULD SPARE MY LIFE.
TIER 3 UPPER FLOOR SINGLE CABIN
WC
BED & STORAGE

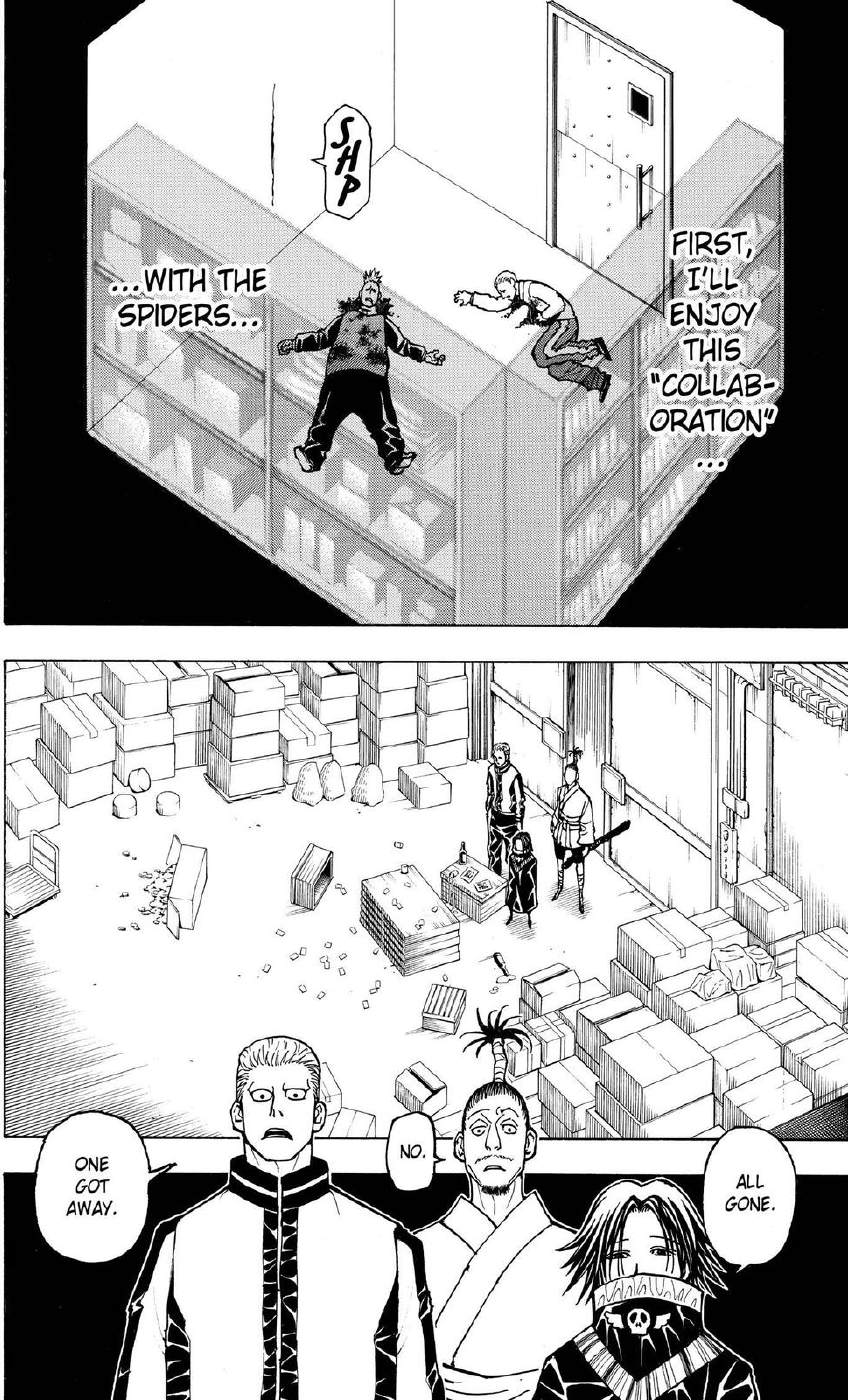

NOW WHAT? I WAS GONNA STOP AT 20.
THAT WAS THE WHOLE POINT OF GOING FOR SINGLE ROOMS.
PLEASE!
PLEASE DON'T KILL ME!
I WAS PRAYING SILENTLY, CERTAIN THAT I'D BE KILLED IF I UTTERED A WORD.
HM...
HOLD ON. ONE, TWO, THREE.
TEN...
... 20?
WAIT, IT'S 21!
OH RIGHT, LEVELS AND NUMBER OF PEOPLE ARE OFFSET BY ONE!
UGH... THAT BOTHERS ME.
WHICH NUMBER SHOULD I COUNT BY?!
I HAD NO IDEA WHAT HE WAS MUMBLING ABOUT.
THIS WON'T WORK! IT'S TOO ***ODD***.
I GOTTA DO IT.
RIGHT WHEN I THOUGHT I WAS DEAD...
THERE WAS A SCREAM OUTSIDE, AND THE SOUNDS OF PEOPLE MILLING AROUND.
PEOPLE RUNNING DOWN THE HALL, POUNDING ON THE DOORS, SCREAMS... THERE WAS SO MUCH NOISE OUTSIDE, AND...

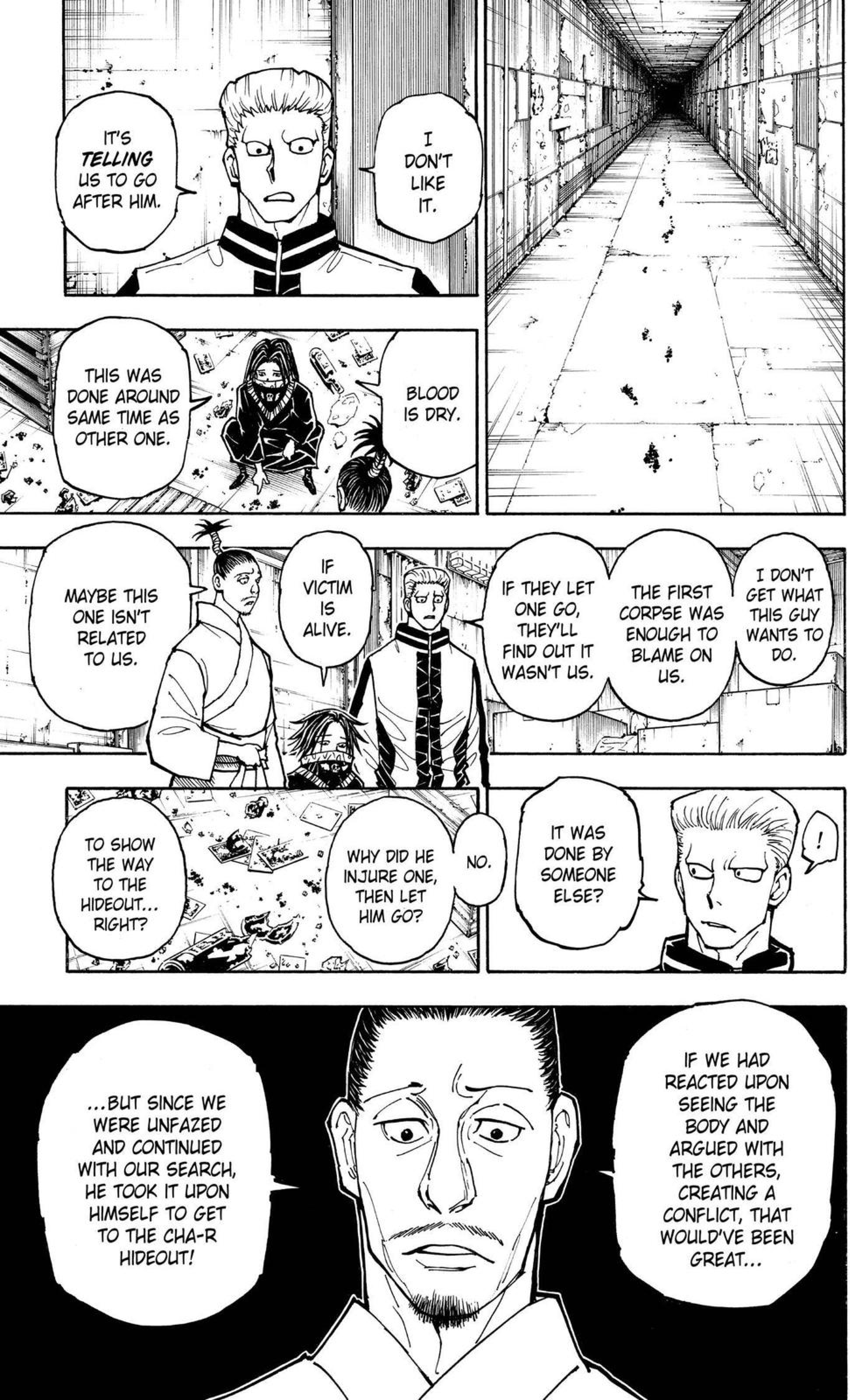

CHUD
CLK
HE LOCKED THE BATHROOM DOOR FROM THE INSIDE.
FROM THE INSIDE?
YES.
I SAT HERE UNTIL THE ROYAL ARMY PRIED OPEN THE DOOR...
THE MAN...
...HAD ESCAPED.
BUT THE PIPES AREN'T BIG ENOUGH FOR A RAT, MUCH LESS A *HUMAN*.
THE SOLDIERS SAID THE SAME THING.
BUT HE DIDN'T COME OUT.
THEY CONFIRMED THAT THE DOOR WAS LOCKED.
JUST... PLEASE CATCH HIM, AND ASK *HIM*.
IF HER STATEMENT IS TRUE, THEN THE PERP USES NEN. BUT IT BOTHERS ME.
KILLING WOULD ONLY TAKE A SECOND. WHY LEAVE A WITNESS? WAS HE RATTLED BY THE NOISE? NO, IT DOESN'T MATCH HIS PROFILE— A MAN WHO KILLED 20 PEOPLE SO QUICKLY.
"LEVELS," "NUMBER OF PEOPLE," "OFFSET," AND THE NUMBERS 20 AND 21...
THOSE ARE CLUES TO THE MYSTERY!!
SO, HOW DID YOU KNOW THE VICTIM?
WE HAPPENED TO SIT NEXT TO EACH OTHER TO EAT.
WE HIT IT OFF RIGHT AWAY.

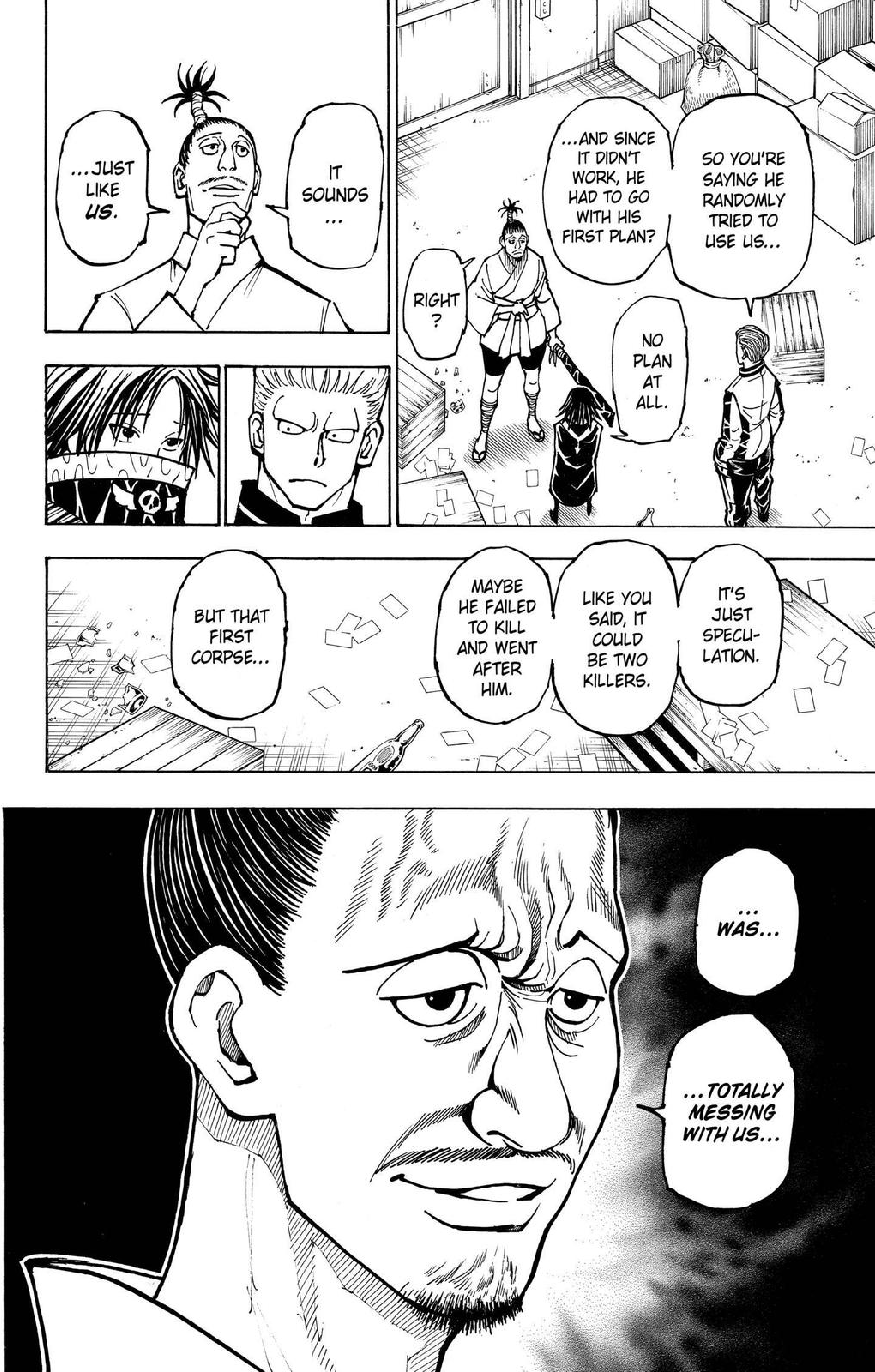

SHE WANTED ADVICE ABOUT HER PERSONAL LIFE...
I DIDN'T EVEN GET TO GIVE IT TO HER...!
PLEASE GO REST IN YOUR CABIN FOR NOW.
WE'LL HAVE TO TALK TO YOU AGAIN.
RRMM...
HEIL-LY ASSOCIATE CASHEW LEVEL 1

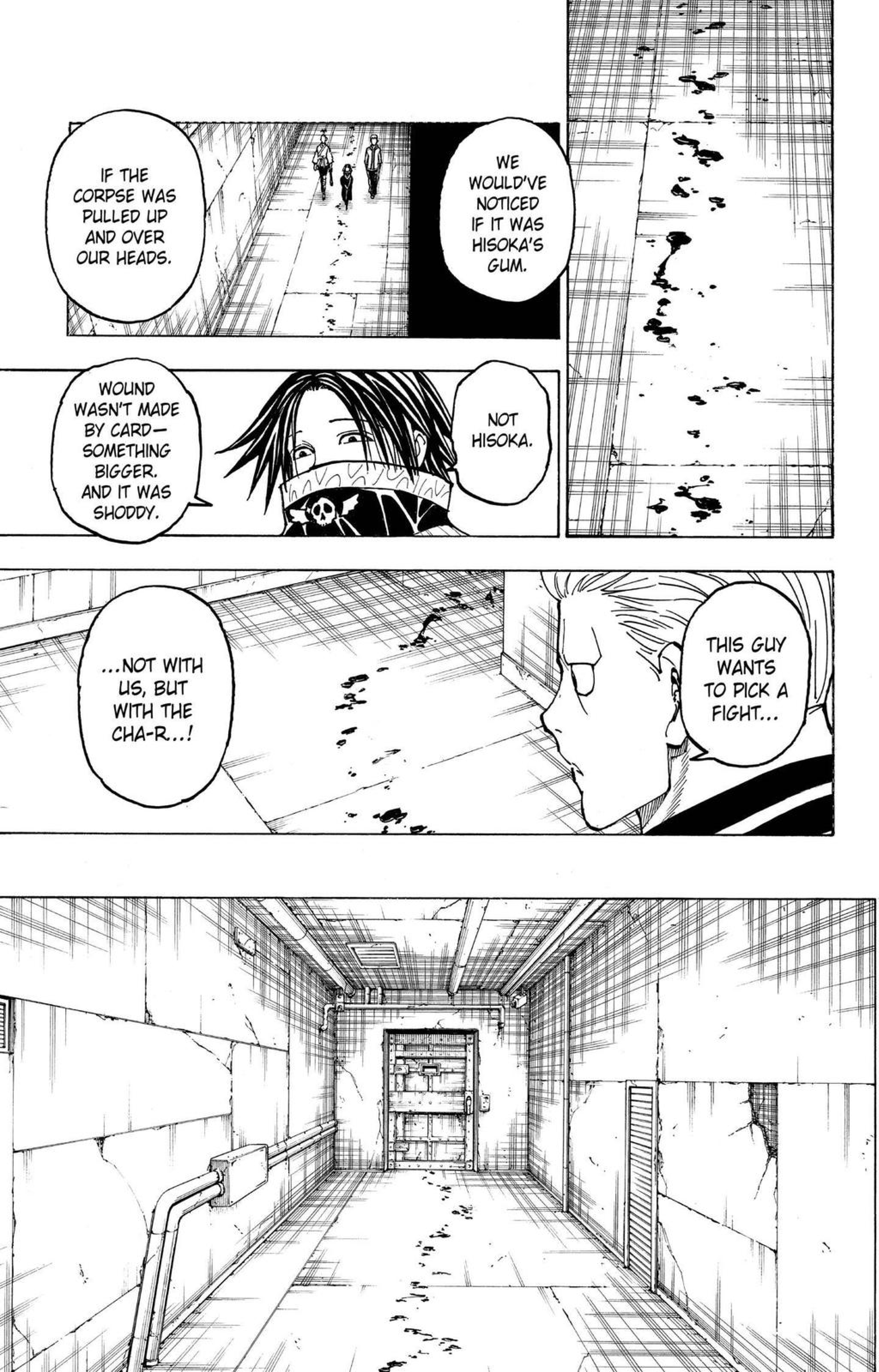

I'LL MIX THE TRUTH WITH LIES LIKE THAT.
GOOD IDEA.
MAKE SURE TO DESCRIBE MY SCAR ACCURATELY.
IT HINTS AT WHY I WASN'T KILLED, TOO.
ARE YOU SURE?
I WANT TO KNOW THEIR INVESTIGATIVE ABILITY.
YEEK
WAAH
NOO
LIKE HOW LONG IT TAKES BETWEEN IDENTIFYING ME AND GETTING FOUND.
ARE YOU *SURE*? YOU'LL BE PUT TO DEATH IF THEY CATCH YOU.
I *WON'T* GET CAUGHT, AND EVEN IF I DO, I'LL ESCAPE.
THE BOSS SAID, "YOUR ABILITY WILL PROVIDE FOR YOU IF YOU WISH HARD ENOUGH."
TMP TMP TMP TMP
I CAN FEEL IT. I'VE JUST BEEN BESTOWED WITH A *GIFT*!
VMM
THIS POWER WILL TAKE ME TO WHERE I WANT TO GO!
AND THEN LUINI DISAPPEARED FROM THE BATHROOM.
A TRANSPORTATION ABILITY. I DON'T REALLY CARE FOR IT.
IS IT REALLY THAT FUN TO GET IT OVER WITH SO FAST?
I'LL GO SLOWLY WITH LEVELING UP AND ASKING FOR THE GIFT.
I'VE SUCCEEDED IN CONTACTING THE INVESTIGATORS.
NOW, TO GET TO KNOW THEM BETTER.

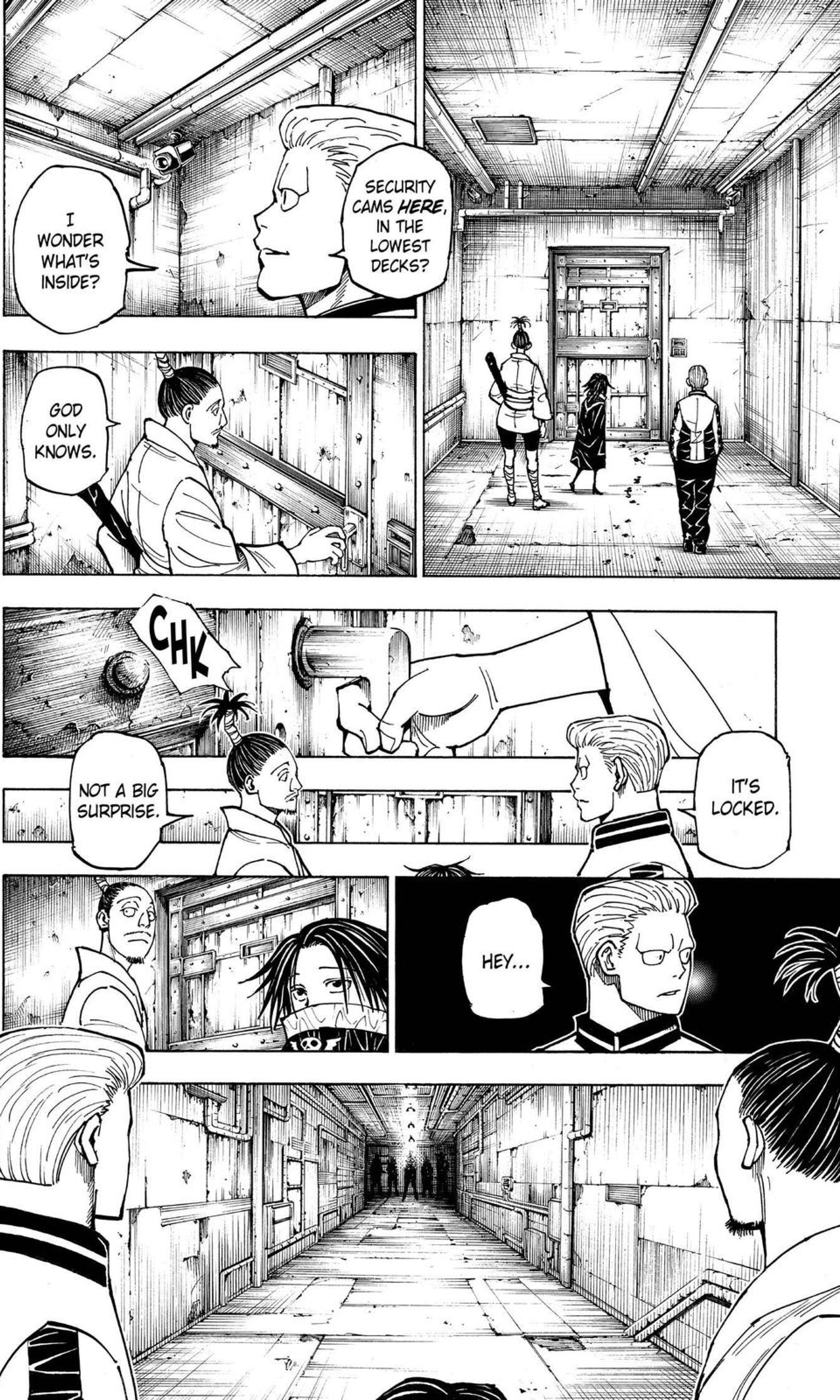

ONE DOOR AND A ROOM OF IMPENETRABLE WALLS.
THOSE ARE THE ACTIVATION CONDITIONS OF MY ABILITY!
AND THEN...
...FROM THE WALL OR FLOOR.
RIP
VMM
I CAN GO SOMEWHERE ELSE!!
I CAN GO BACK TO THE ORIGINAL ROOM WHENEVER AND FROM WHEREVER...
...BUT IF THE ORIGINAL DOOR OPENS AND IS NO LONGER A SEALED ROOM, THE ABILITY RESETS AND I CAN NEVER USE IT IN THAT ROOM AGAIN.
I'M ALSO LIMITED TO ONLY PLACES I'VE BEEN TO BEFORE.
I THINK I CAN ALSO GO OUTSIDE THE SHIP, BUT CONSIDERING THE DANGER OF GETTING RESET, I CAN'T TEST IT RIGHT NOW.

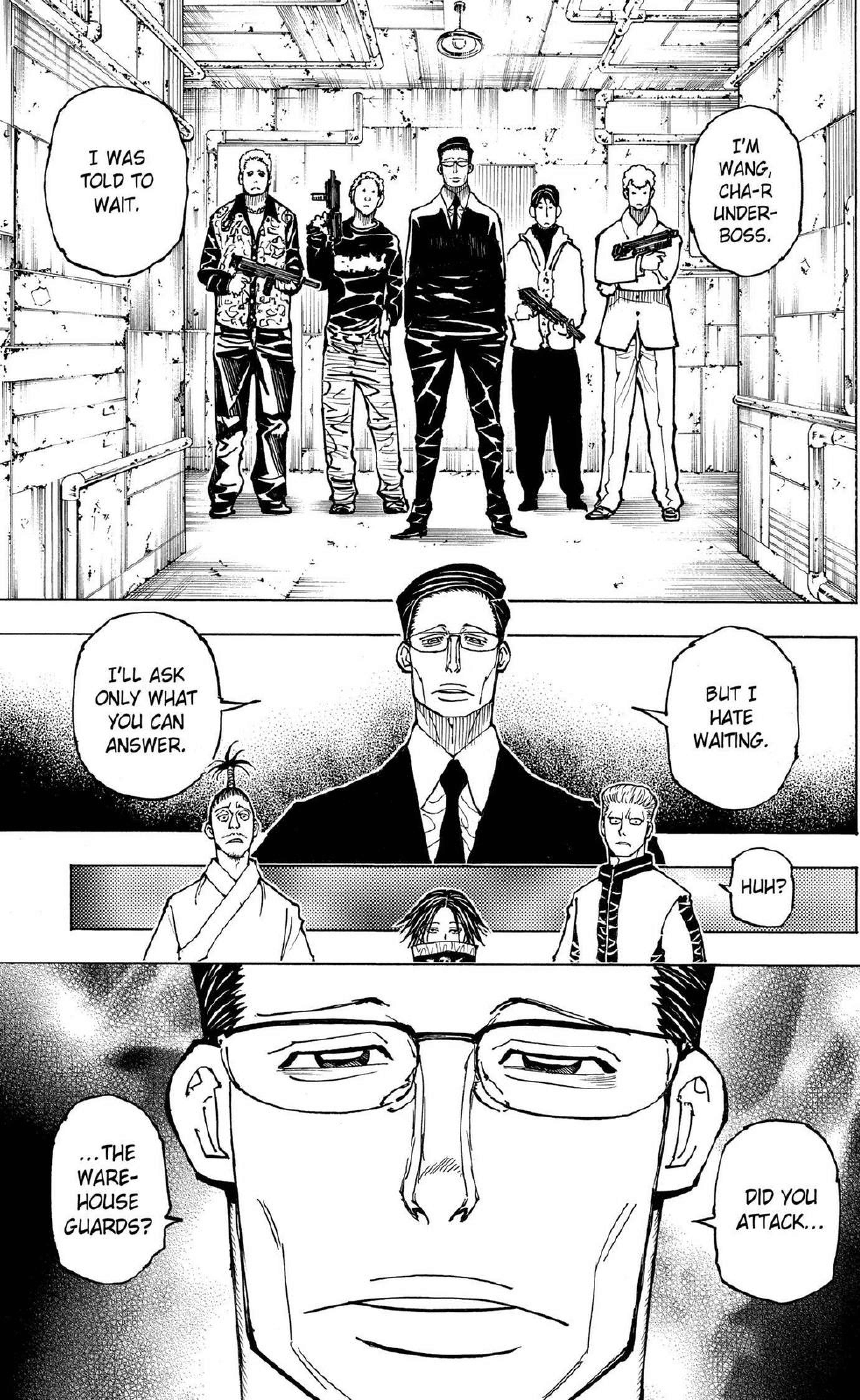

SHP
FIRST, I'LL ENJOY THIS "COLLABORATION"...
...WITH THE SPIDERS...
ALL GONE.
NO.
ONE GOT AWAY.

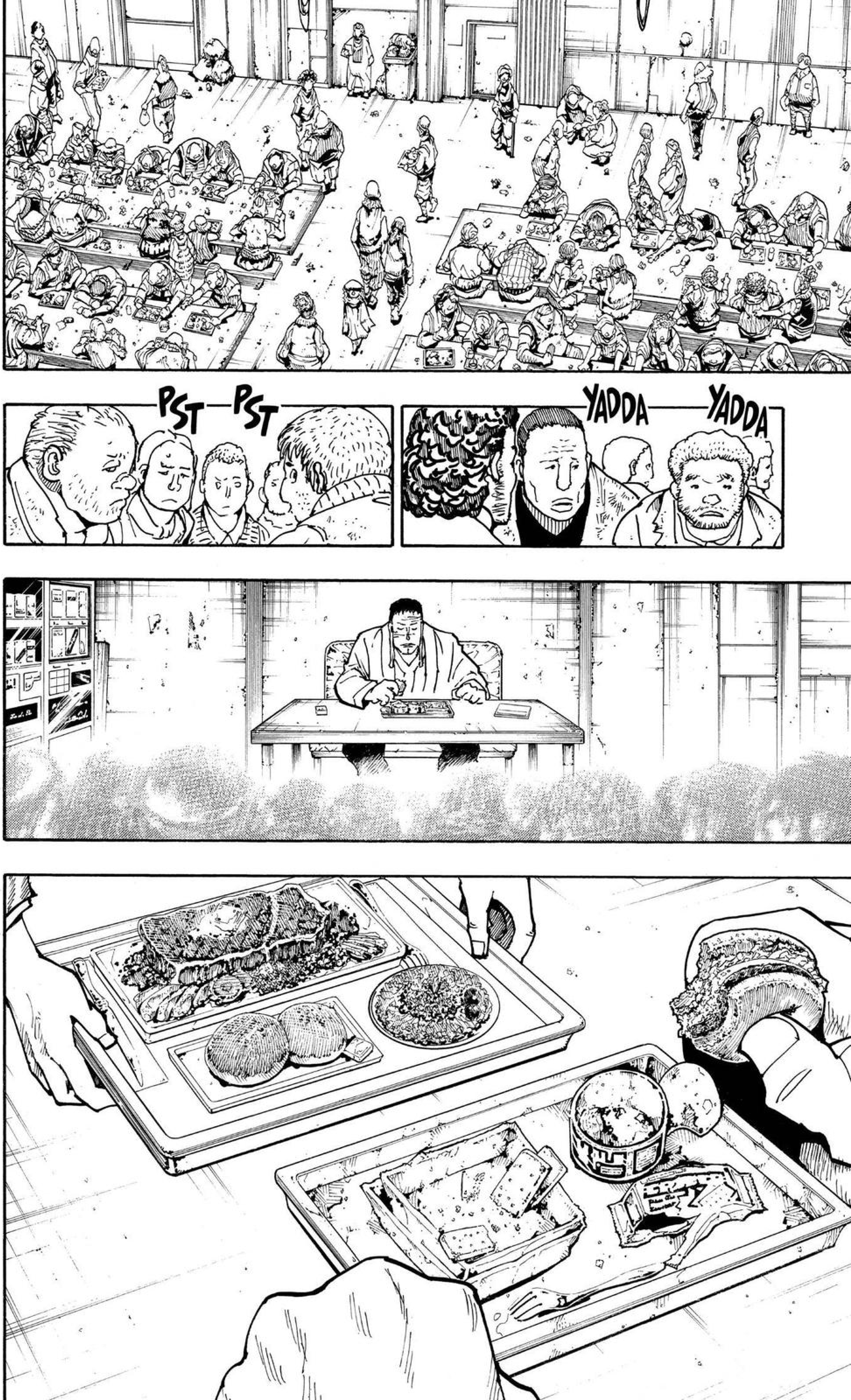

I DON'T LIKE IT.
IT'S *TELLING* US TO GO AFTER HIM.
BLOOD IS DRY.
THIS WAS DONE AROUND SAME TIME AS OTHER ONE.
I DON'T GET WHAT THIS GUY WANTS TO DO.
THE FIRST CORPSE WAS ENOUGH TO BLAME ON US.
IF THEY LET ONE GO, THEY'LL FIND OUT IT WASN'T US.
IF VICTIM IS ALIVE.
MAYBE THIS ONE ISN'T RELATED TO US.
!
IT WAS DONE BY SOMEONE ELSE?
NO.
WHY DID HE INJURE ONE, THEN LET HIM GO?
TO SHOW THE WAY TO THE HIDEOUT... RIGHT?
IF WE HAD REACTED UPON SEEING THE BODY AND ARGUED WITH THE OTHERS, CREATING A CONFLICT, THAT WOULD'VE BEEN GREAT...
...BUT SINCE WE WERE UNFAZED AND CONTINUED WITH OUR SEARCH, HE TOOK IT UPON HIMSELF TO GET TO THE CHA-R HIDEOUT!

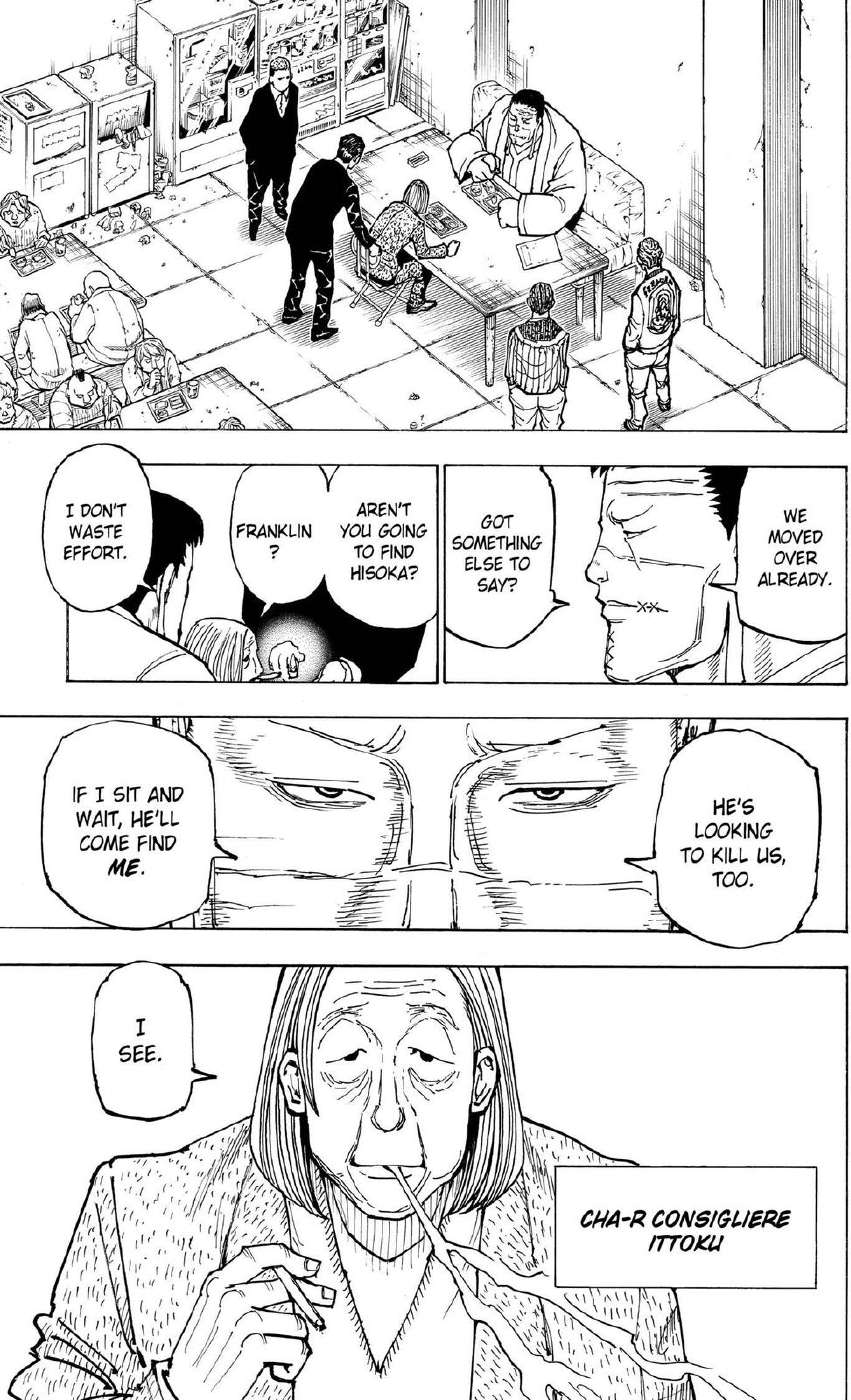

SO YOU'RE SAYING HE RANDOMLY TRIED TO USE US...
...AND SINCE IT DIDN'T WORK, HE HAD TO GO WITH HIS FIRST PLAN?
RIGHT?
NO PLAN AT ALL.
IT SOUNDS...
...JUST LIKE *US*.
IT'S JUST SPECULATION.
LIKE YOU SAID, IT COULD BE TWO KILLERS.
MAYBE HE FAILED TO KILL AND WENT AFTER HIM.
BUT THAT FIRST CORPSE...
...WAS...
...TOTALLY MESSING WITH US...

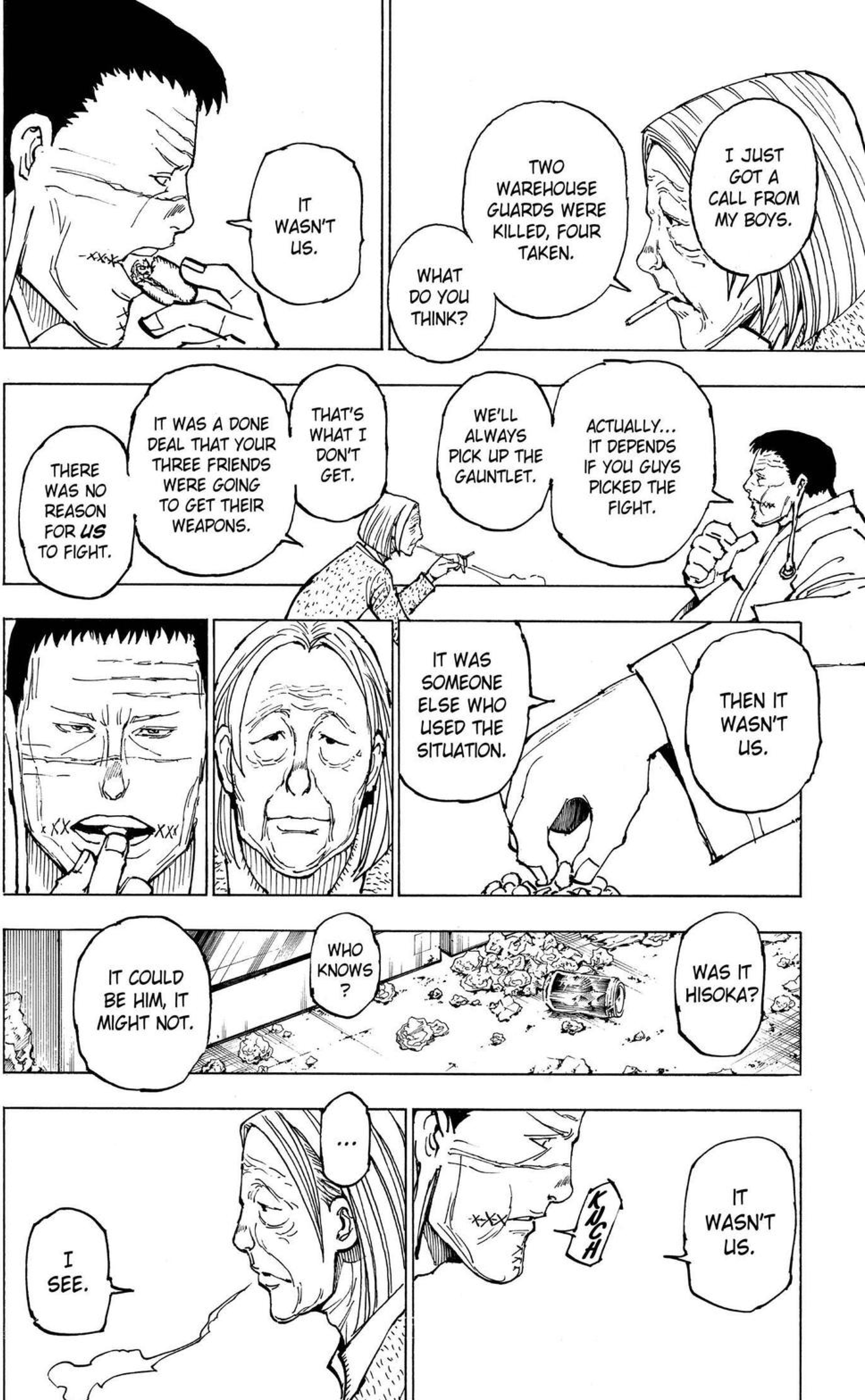

WE WOULD'VE NOTICED IF IT WAS HISOKA'S GUM.
IF THE CORPSE WAS PULLED UP AND OVER OUR HEADS.
NOT HISOKA.
WOUND WASN'T MADE BY CARD— SOMETHING BIGGER. AND IT WAS SHODDY.
THIS GUY WANTS TO PICK A FIGHT...
...NOT WITH US, BUT WITH THE CHA-R...!

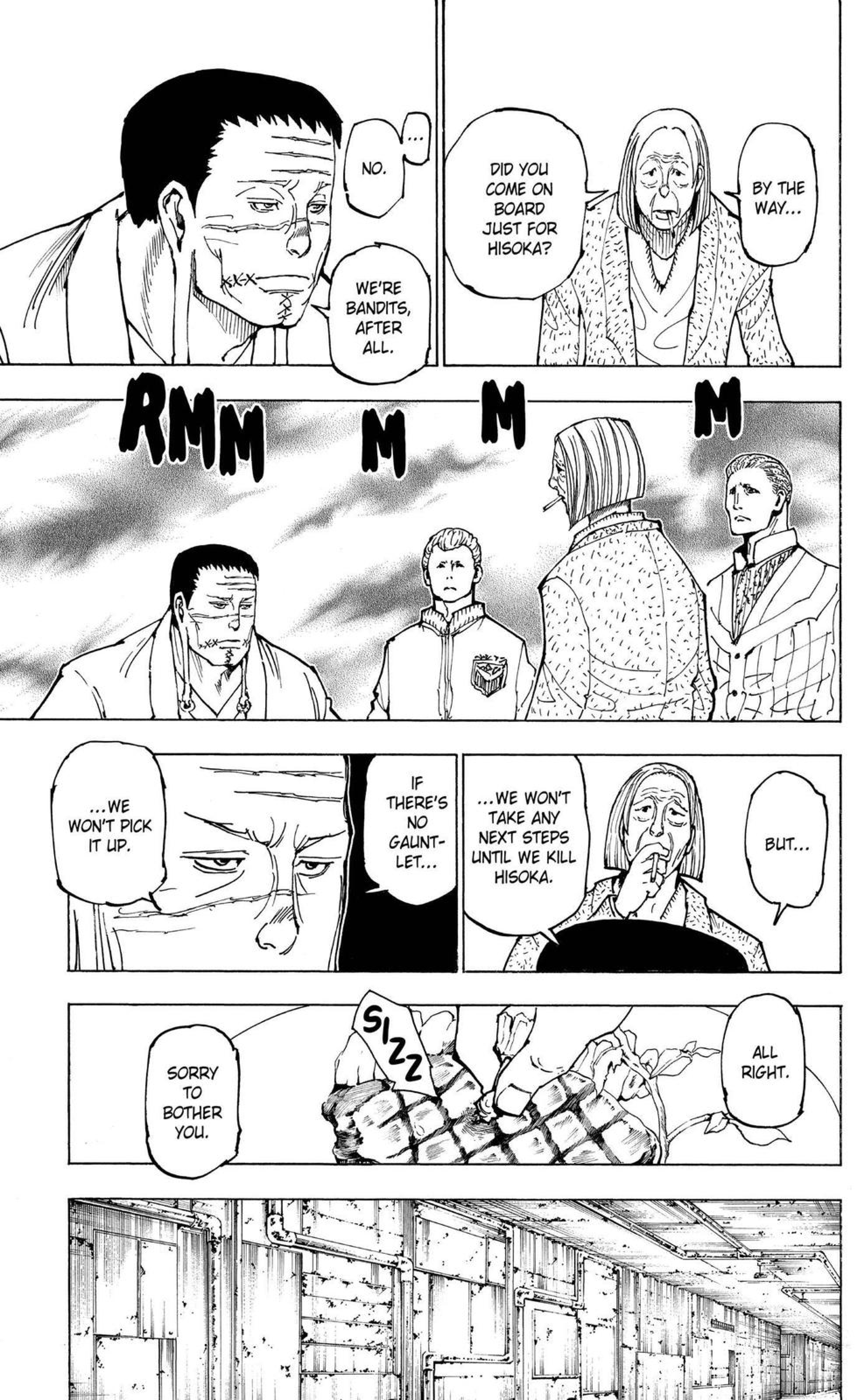

SECURITY CAMS *HERE*, IN THE LOWEST DECKS?
I WONDER WHAT'S INSIDE?
GOD ONLY KNOWS.
CHK
IT'S LOCKED.
NOT A BIG SURPRISE.
HEY...

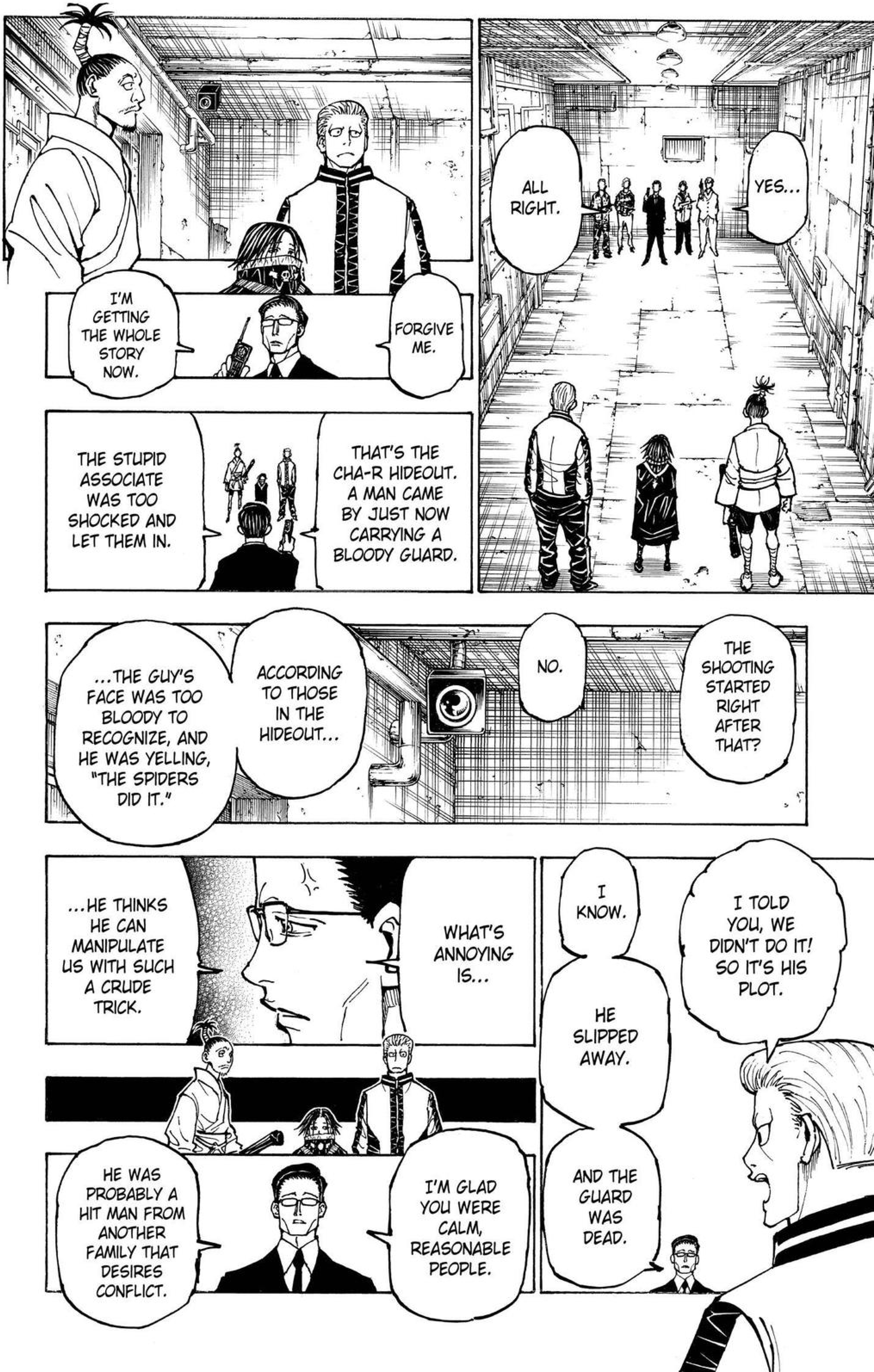

I'M WANG, CHA-R UNDERBOSS.
I WAS TOLD TO WAIT.
BUT I HATE WAITING.
I'LL ASK ONLY WHAT YOU CAN ANSWER.
HUH?
DID YOU ATTACK…
…THE WAREHOUSE GUARDS?

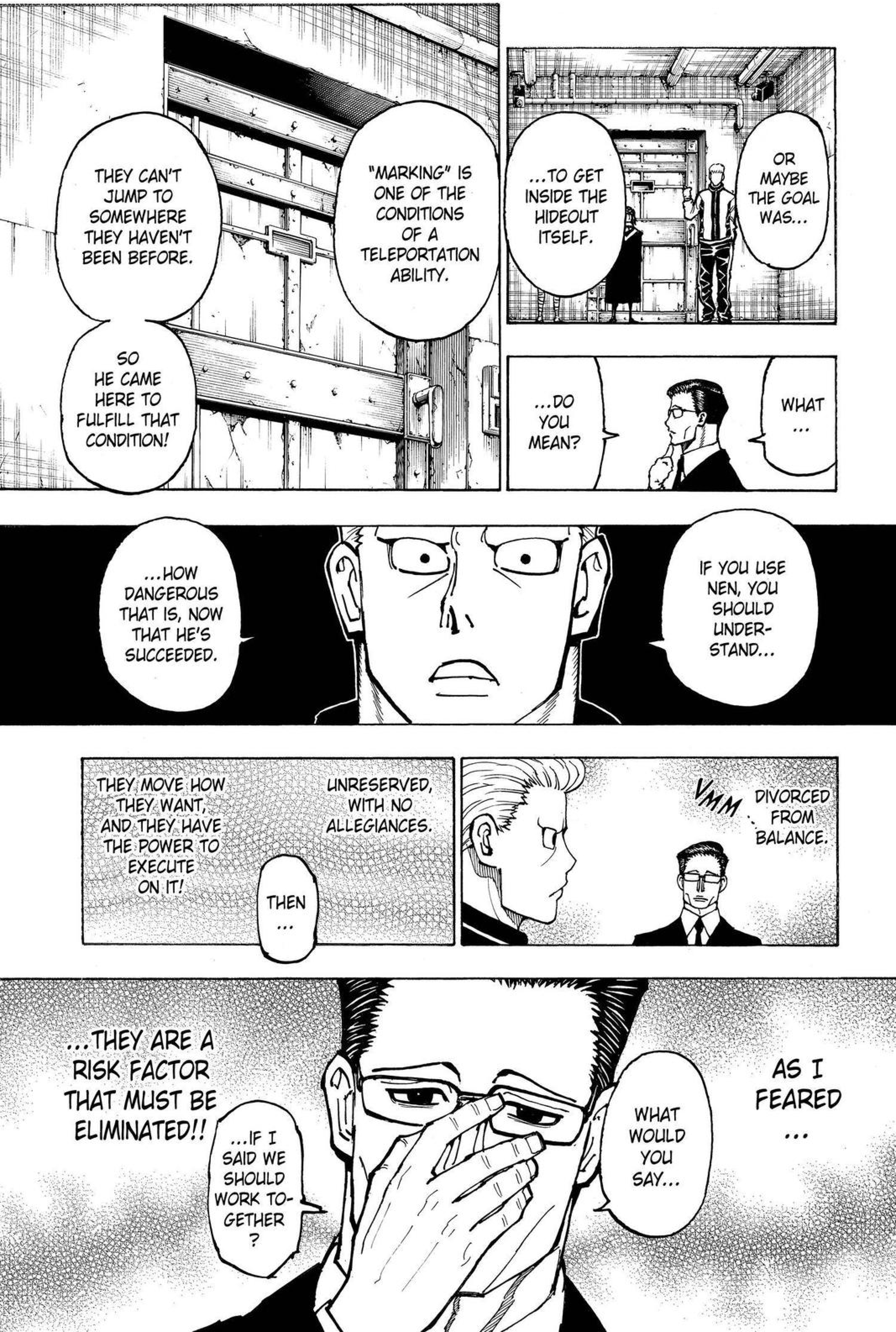

YADDA YADDA
PST PST

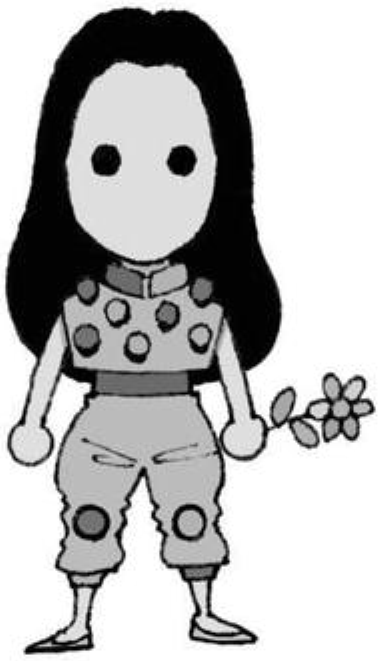

WE MOVED OVER ALREADY.
GOT SOMETHING ELSE TO SAY?
AREN'T YOU GOING TO FIND HISOKA?
FRANKLIN?
I DON'T WASTE EFFORT.
HE'S LOOKING TO KILL US, TOO.
IF I SIT AND WAIT, HE'LL COME FIND *ME*.
I SEE.
CHA-R CONSIGLIERE ITTOKU

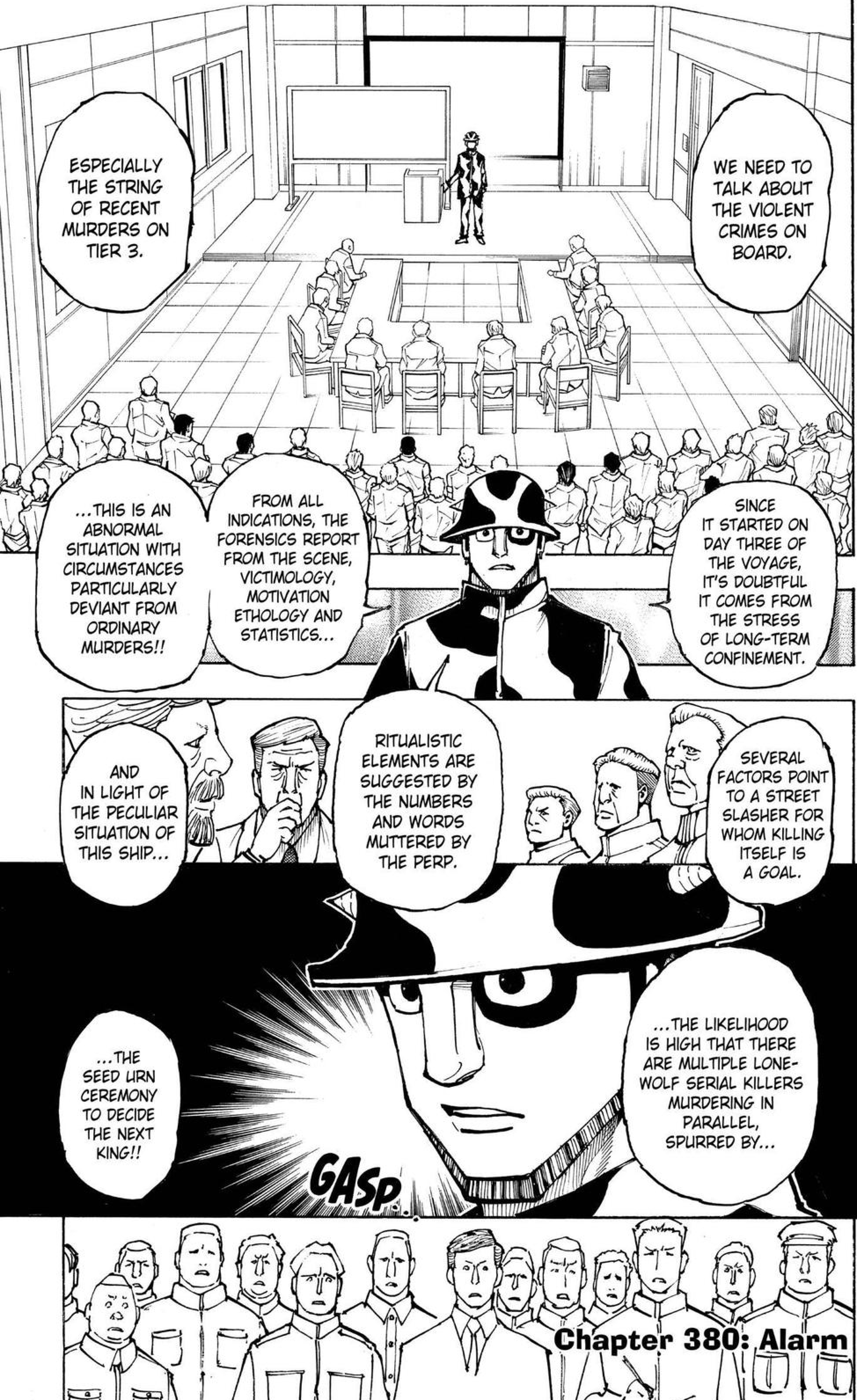

I JUST GOT A CALL FROM MY BOYS.
TWO WAREHOUSE GUARDS WERE KILLED, FOUR TAKEN.
WHAT DO YOU THINK?
IT WASN'T US.
ACTUALLY... IT DEPENDS IF YOU GUYS PICKED THE FIGHT.
WE'LL ALWAYS PICK UP THE GAUNTLET.
THAT'S WHAT I DON'T GET.
IT WAS A DONE DEAL THAT YOUR THREE FRIENDS WERE GOING TO GET THEIR WEAPONS.
THERE WAS NO REASON FOR **US** TO FIGHT.
THEN IT WASN'T US.
IT WAS SOMEONE ELSE WHO USED THE SITUATION.
WAS IT HISOKA?
WHO KNOWS?
IT COULD BE HIM, IT MIGHT NOT.
IT WASN'T US.
KNCH
...
I SEE.


BY THE WAY...
DID YOU COME ON BOARD JUST FOR HISOKA?
...
NO.
WE'RE BANDITS, AFTER ALL.
RMMMMM
BUT...
...WE WON'T TAKE ANY NEXT STEPS UNTIL WE KILL HISOKA.
IF THERE'S NO GAUNTLET...
...WE WON'T PICK IT UP.
ALL RIGHT.
SIZZ
SORRY TO BOTHER YOU.

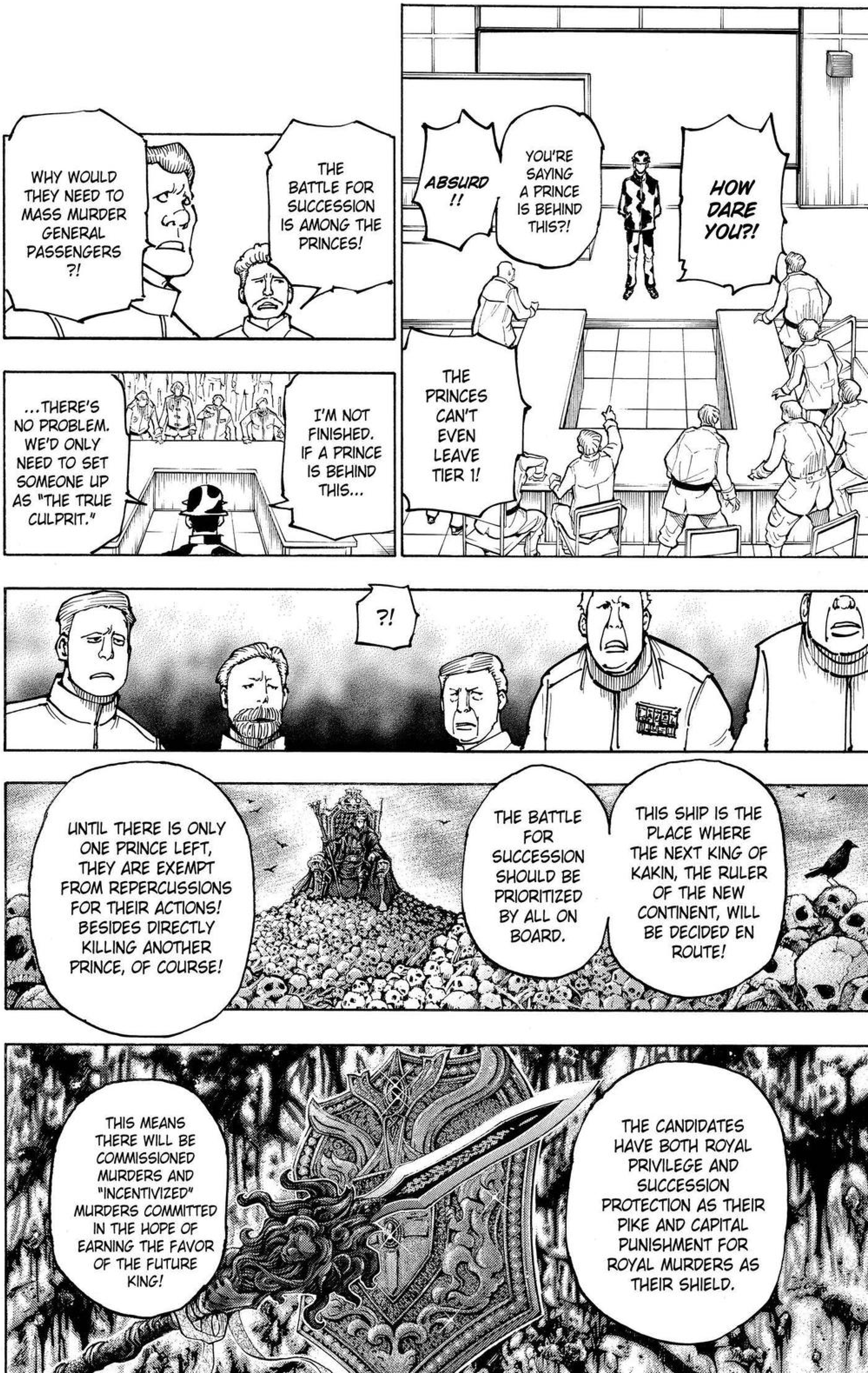

YES...
ALL RIGHT.
FORGIVE ME.
I'M GETTING THE WHOLE STORY NOW.
THAT'S THE CHA-R HIDEOUT. A MAN CAME BY JUST NOW CARRYING A BLOODY GUARD.
THE STUPID ASSOCIATE WAS TOO SHOCKED AND LET THEM IN.
THE SHOOTING STARTED RIGHT AFTER THAT?
NO.
ACCORDING TO THOSE IN THE HIDEOUT...
...THE GUY'S FACE WAS TOO BLOODY TO RECOGNIZE, AND HE WAS YELLING, "THE SPIDERS DID IT."
I TOLD YOU, WE DIDN'T DO IT! SO IT'S HIS PLOT.
I KNOW.
HE SLIPPED AWAY.
AND THE GUARD WAS DEAD.
WHAT'S ANNOYING IS...
...HE THINKS HE CAN MANIPULATE US WITH SUCH A CRUDE TRICK.
I'M GLAD YOU WERE CALM, REASONABLE PEOPLE.
HE WAS PROBABLY A HIT MAN FROM ANOTHER FAMILY THAT DESIRES CONFLICT.

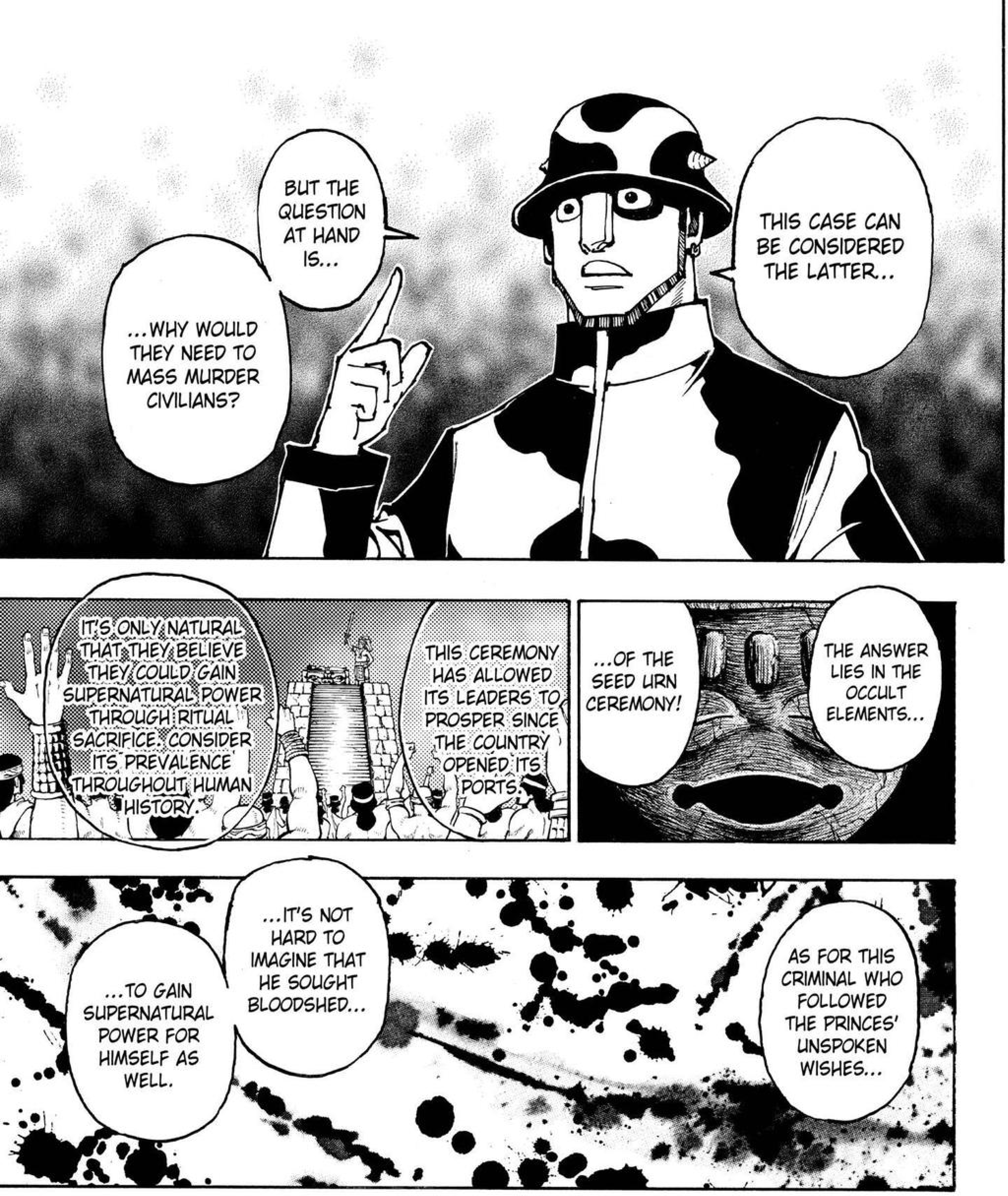

OR MAYBE THE GOAL WAS...
...TO GET INSIDE THE HIDEOUT ITSELF.
WHAT ...
...DO YOU MEAN?
"MARKING" IS ONE OF THE CONDITIONS OF A TELEPORTATION ABILITY.
THEY CAN'T JUMP TO SOMEWHERE THEY HAVEN'T BEEN BEFORE.
SO HE CAME HERE TO FULFILL THAT CONDITION!
IF YOU USE NEN, YOU SHOULD UNDERSTAND...
...HOW DANGEROUS THAT IS, NOW THAT HE'S SUCCEEDED.
VMM
DIVORCED FROM BALANCE.
UNRESERVED, WITH NO ALLEGIANCES.
THEY MOVE HOW THEY WANT, AND THEY HAVE THE POWER TO EXECUTE ON IT!
THEN ...
AS I FEARED ...
WHAT WOULD YOU SAY...
...IF I SAID WE SHOULD WORK TOGETHER ?
...THEY ARE A RISK FACTOR THAT MUST BE ELIMINATED!!

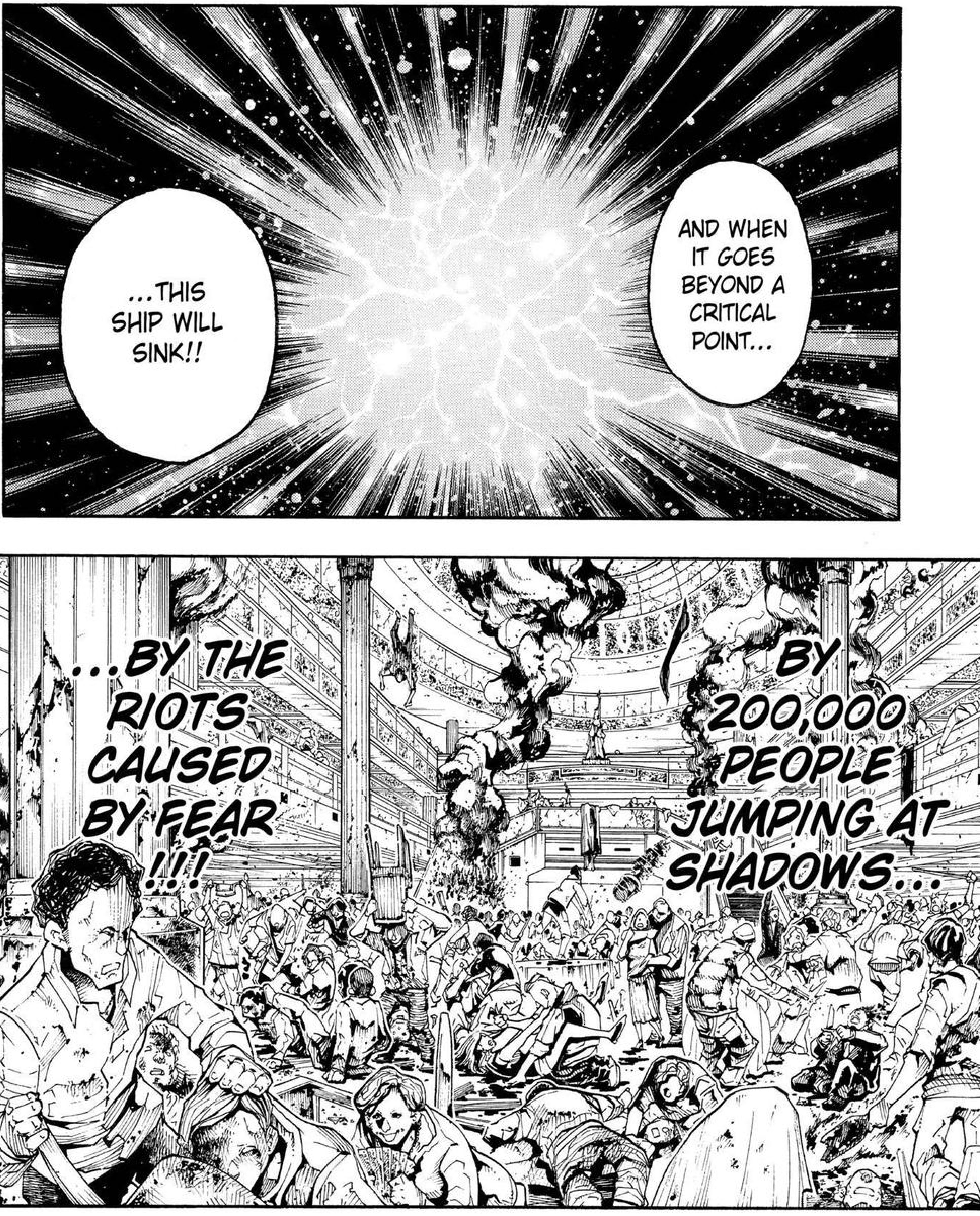


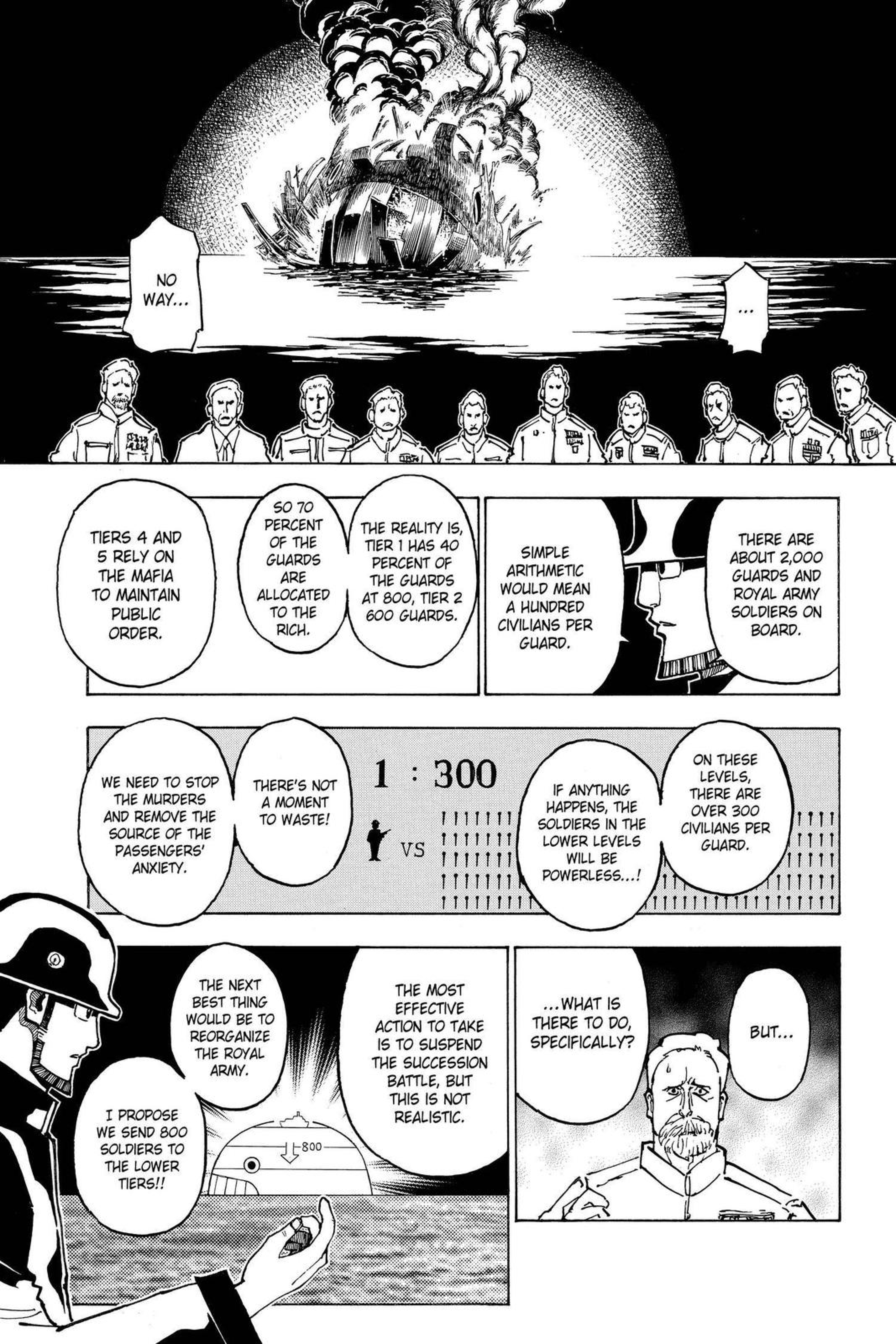

WE NEED TO TALK ABOUT THE VIOLENT CRIMES ON BOARD.
ESPECIALLY THE STRING OF RECENT MURDERS ON TIER 3.
SINCE IT STARTED ON DAY THREE OF THE VOYAGE, IT'S DOUBTFUL IT COMES FROM THE STRESS OF LONG-TERM CONFINEMENT.
FROM ALL INDICATIONS, THE FORENSICS REPORT FROM THE SCENE, VICTIMOLOGY, MOTIVATION ETHOLOGY AND STATISTICS...
...THIS IS AN ABNORMAL SITUATION WITH CIRCUMSTANCES PARTICULARLY DEVIANT FROM ORDINARY MURDERS!!
SEVERAL FACTORS POINT TO A STREET SLASHER FOR WHOM KILLING ITSELF IS A GOAL.
RITUALISTIC ELEMENTS ARE SUGGESTED BY THE NUMBERS AND WORDS MUTTERED BY THE PERP.
AND IN LIGHT OF THE PECULIAR SITUATION OF THIS SHIP...
...THE LIKELIHOOD IS HIGH THAT THERE ARE MULTIPLE LONE-WOLF SERIAL KILLERS MURDERING IN PARALLEL, SPURRED BY...
...THE SEED URN CEREMONY TO DECIDE THE NEXT KING!!
GASP

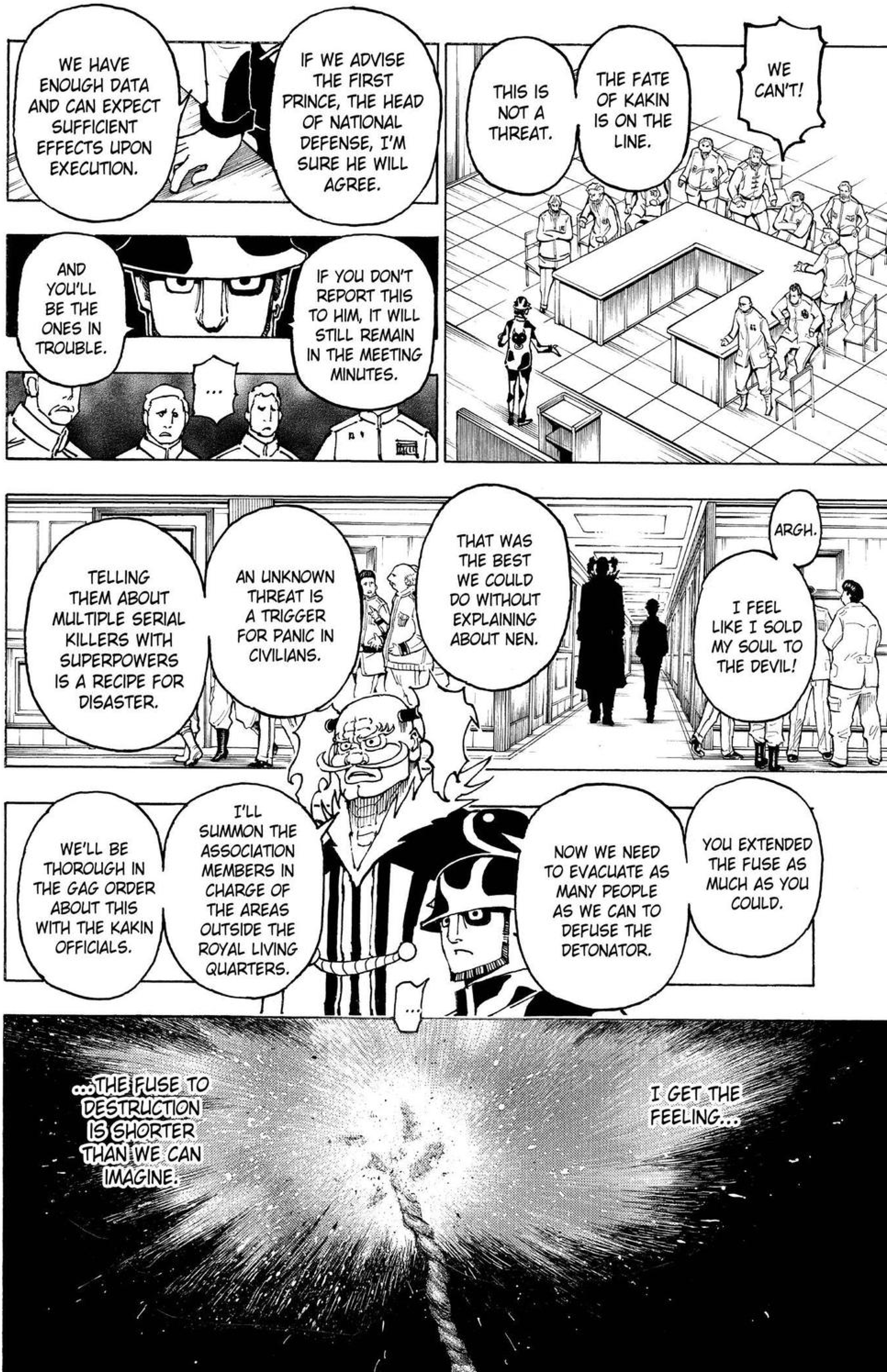
Chapter 380: Alarm

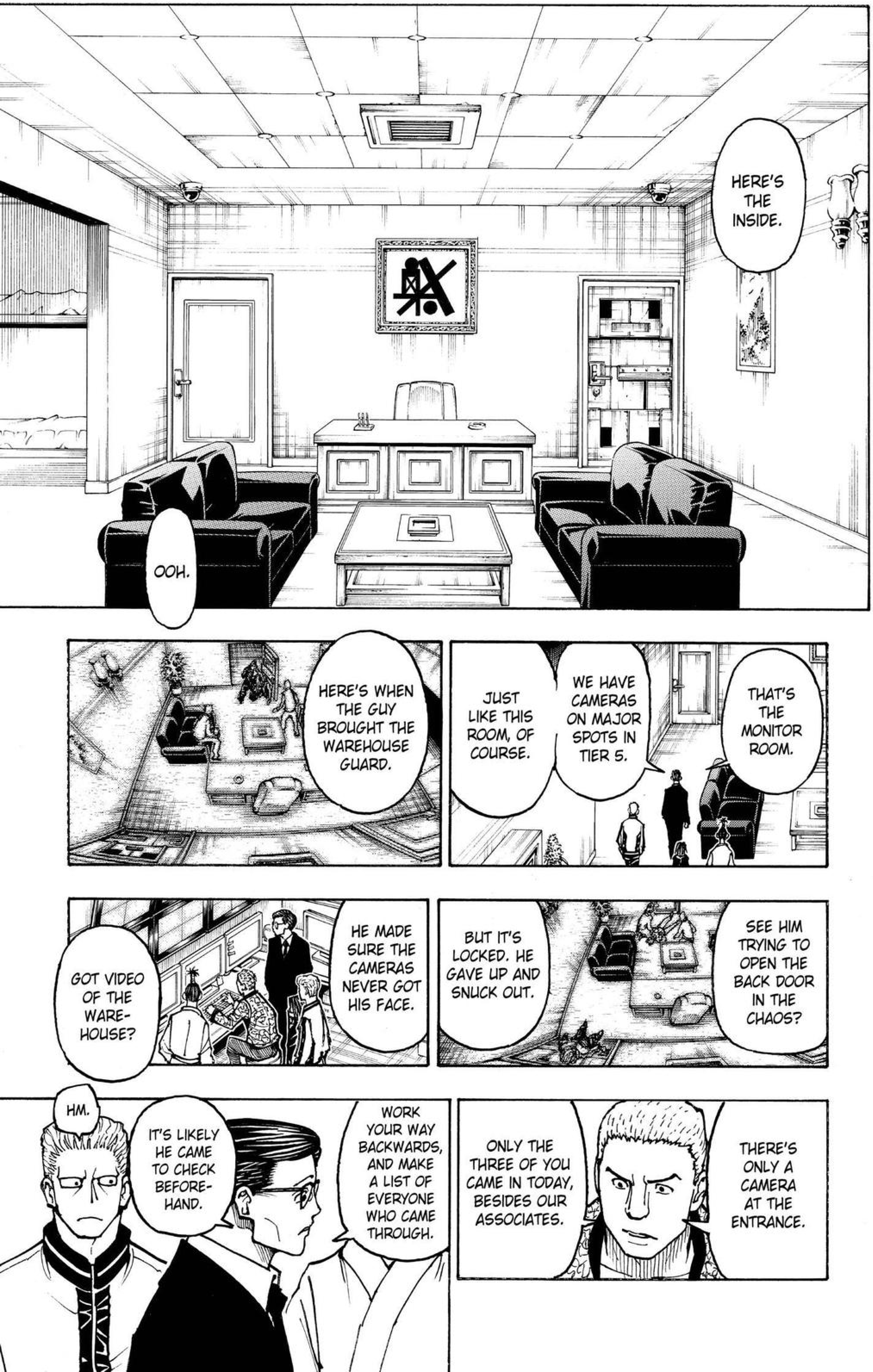

HOW DARE YOU?!
YOU'RE SAYING A PRINCE IS BEHIND THIS?!
ABSURD!!
THE PRINCES CAN'T EVEN LEAVE TIER 1!
THE BATTLE FOR SUCCESSION IS AMONG THE PRINCES!
WHY WOULD THEY NEED TO MASS MURDER GENERAL PASSENGERS?!
I'M NOT FINISHED. IF A PRINCE IS BEHIND THIS...
...THERE'S NO PROBLEM. WE'D ONLY NEED TO SET SOMEONE UP AS "THE TRUE CULPRIT."
?!
THIS SHIP IS THE PLACE WHERE THE NEXT KING OF KAKIN, THE RULER OF THE NEW CONTINENT, WILL BE DECIDED EN ROUTE!
THE BATTLE FOR SUCCESSION SHOULD BE PRIORITIZED BY ALL ON BOARD.
UNTIL THERE IS ONLY ONE PRINCE LEFT, THEY ARE EXEMPT FROM REPERCUSSIONS FOR THEIR ACTIONS! BESIDES DIRECTLY KILLING ANOTHER PRINCE, OF COURSE!
THE CANDIDATES HAVE BOTH ROYAL PRIVILEGE AND SUCCESSION PROTECTION AS THEIR PIKE AND CAPITAL PUNISHMENT FOR ROYAL MURDERS AS THEIR SHIELD.
THIS MEANS THERE WILL BE COMMISSIONED MURDERS AND "INCENTIVIZED" MURDERS COMMITTED IN THE HOPE OF EARNING THE FAVOR OF THE FUTURE KING!

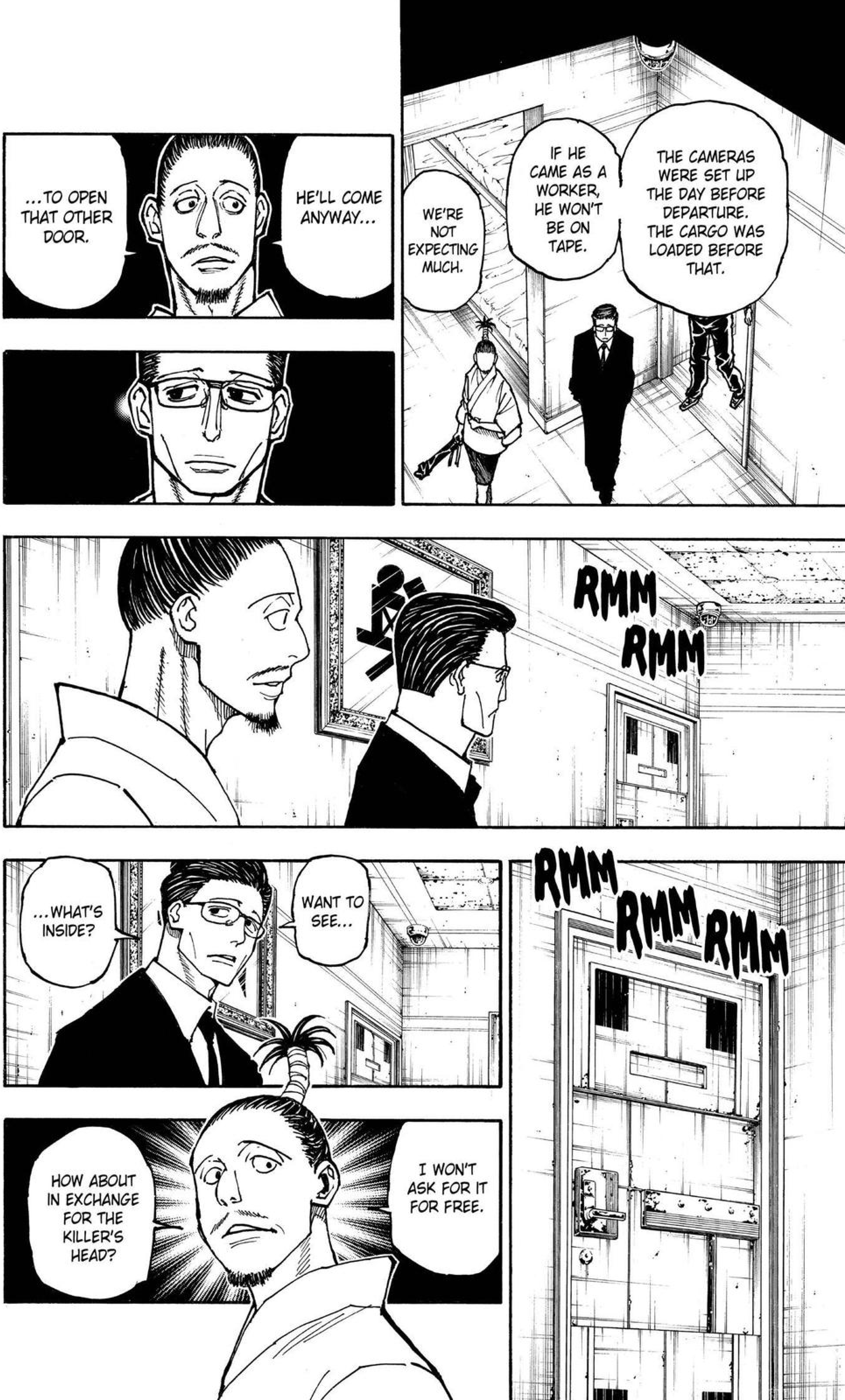

THIS CASE CAN BE CONSIDERED THE LATTER...
BUT THE QUESTION AT HAND IS...
...WHY WOULD THEY NEED TO MASS MURDER CIVILIANS?
THE ANSWER LIES IN THE OCCULT ELEMENTS...
...OF THE SEED URN CEREMONY!
THIS CEREMONY HAS ALLOWED ITS LEADERS TO PROSPER SINCE THE COUNTRY OPENED ITS PORTS.
IT'S ONLY NATURAL THAT THEY BELIEVE THEY COULD GAIN SUPERNATURAL POWER THROUGH RITUAL SACRIFICE. CONSIDER ITS PREVALENCE THROUGHOUT HUMAN HISTORY.
AS FOR THIS CRIMINAL WHO FOLLOWED THE PRINCES' UNSPOKEN WISHES...
...IT'S NOT HARD TO IMAGINE THAT HE SOUGHT BLOODSHED...
...TO GAIN SUPERNATURAL POWER FOR HIMSELF AS WELL.
MUTTER
MUTTER
MUTTER
AND NOW, DOWN TO BUSINESS...
THESE CRIMES WILL ONLY CONTINUE AND MULTIPLY!!

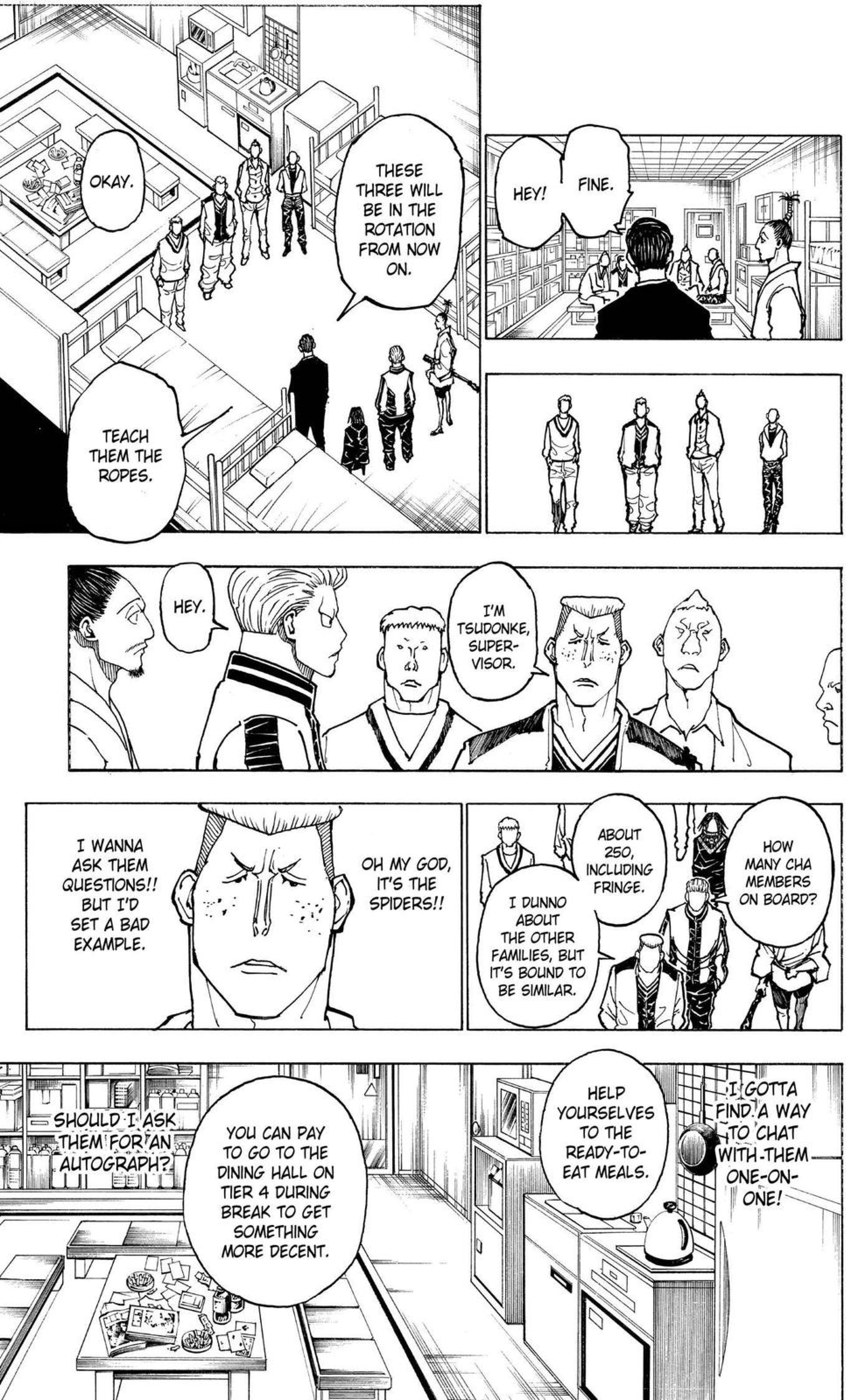

AND WHEN IT GOES BEYOND A CRITICAL POINT...
...THIS SHIP WILL SINK!!
BY 200,000 PEOPLE JUMPING AT SHADOWS...
...BY THE RIOTS CAUSED BY FEAR!!!

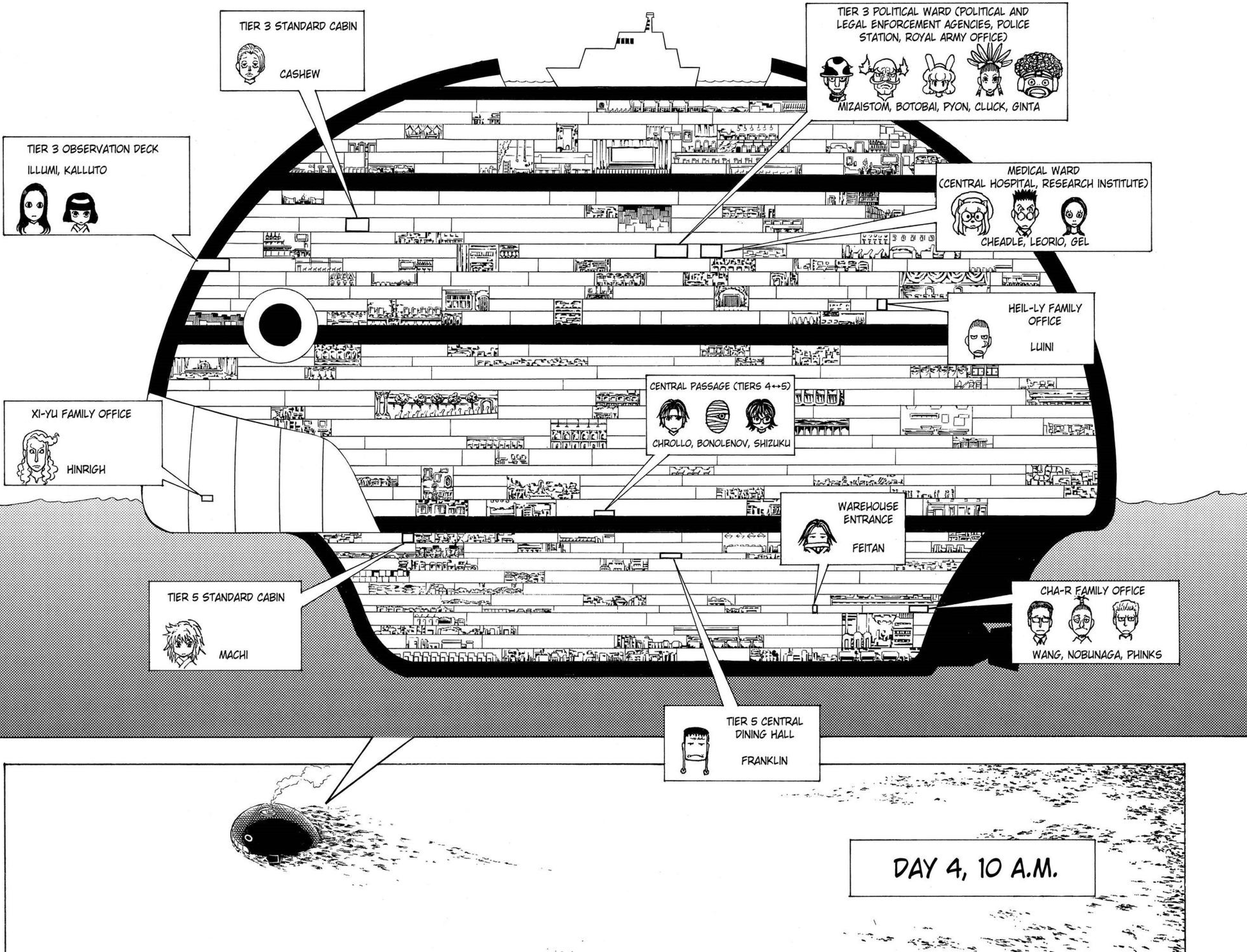

…
NO WAY…
THERE ARE ABOUT 2,000 GUARDS AND ROYAL ARMY SOLDIERS ON BOARD.
SIMPLE ARITHMETIC WOULD MEAN A HUNDRED CIVILIANS PER GUARD.
THE REALITY IS, TIER 1 HAS 40 PERCENT OF THE GUARDS AT 800, TIER 2 600 GUARDS.
SO 70 PERCENT OF THE GUARDS ARE ALLOCATED TO THE RICH.
TIERS 4 AND 5 RELY ON THE MAFIA TO MAINTAIN PUBLIC ORDER.
ON THESE LEVELS, THERE ARE OVER 300 CIVILIANS PER GUARD.
IF ANYTHING HAPPENS, THE SOLDIERS IN THE LOWER LEVELS WILL BE POWERLESS…!
1 : 300
VS
THERE'S NOT A MOMENT TO WASTE!
WE NEED TO STOP THE MURDERS AND REMOVE THE SOURCE OF THE PASSENGERS' ANXIETY.
BUT…
…WHAT IS THERE TO DO, SPECIFICALLY?
THE MOST EFFECTIVE ACTION TO TAKE IS TO SUSPEND THE SUCCESSION BATTLE, BUT THIS IS NOT REALISTIC.
THE NEXT BEST THING WOULD BE TO REORGANIZE THE ROYAL ARMY.
800
I PROPOSE WE SEND 800 SOLDIERS TO THE LOWER TIERS!!

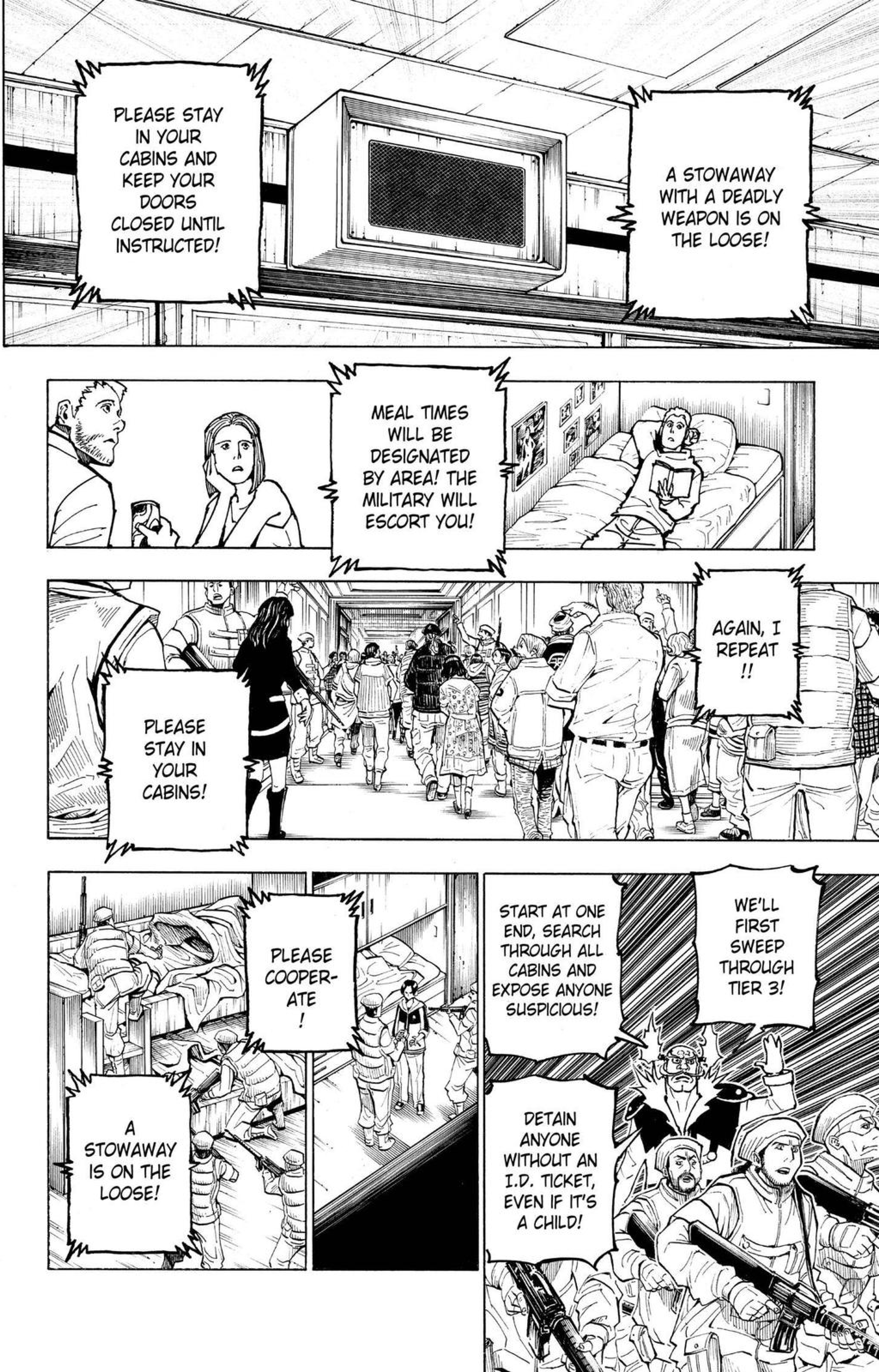

WE CAN'T!
THE FATE OF KAKIN IS ON THE LINE.
THIS IS NOT A THREAT.
IF WE ADVISE THE FIRST PRINCE, THE HEAD OF NATIONAL DEFENSE, I'M SURE HE WILL AGREE.
WE HAVE ENOUGH DATA AND CAN EXPECT SUFFICIENT EFFECTS UPON EXECUTION.
IF YOU DON'T REPORT THIS TO HIM, IT WILL STILL REMAIN IN THE MEETING MINUTES.
AND YOU'LL BE THE ONES IN TROUBLE.
...
ARGH.
I FEEL LIKE I SOLD MY SOUL TO THE DEVIL!
THAT WAS THE BEST WE COULD DO WITHOUT EXPLAINING ABOUT NEN.
AN UNKNOWN THREAT IS A TRIGGER FOR PANIC IN CIVILIANS.
TELLING THEM ABOUT MULTIPLE SERIAL KILLERS WITH SUPERPOWERS IS A RECIPE FOR DISASTER.
YOU EXTENDED THE FUSE AS MUCH AS YOU COULD.
NOW WE NEED TO EVACUATE AS MANY PEOPLE AS WE CAN TO DEFUSE THE DETONATOR.
I'LL SUMMON THE ASSOCIATION MEMBERS IN CHARGE OF THE AREAS OUTSIDE THE ROYAL LIVING QUARTERS.
WE'LL BE THOROUGH IN THE GAG ORDER ABOUT THIS WITH THE KAKIN OFFICIALS.
...
I GET THE FEELING...
...THE FUSE TO DESTRUCTION IS SHORTER THAN WE CAN IMAGINE.

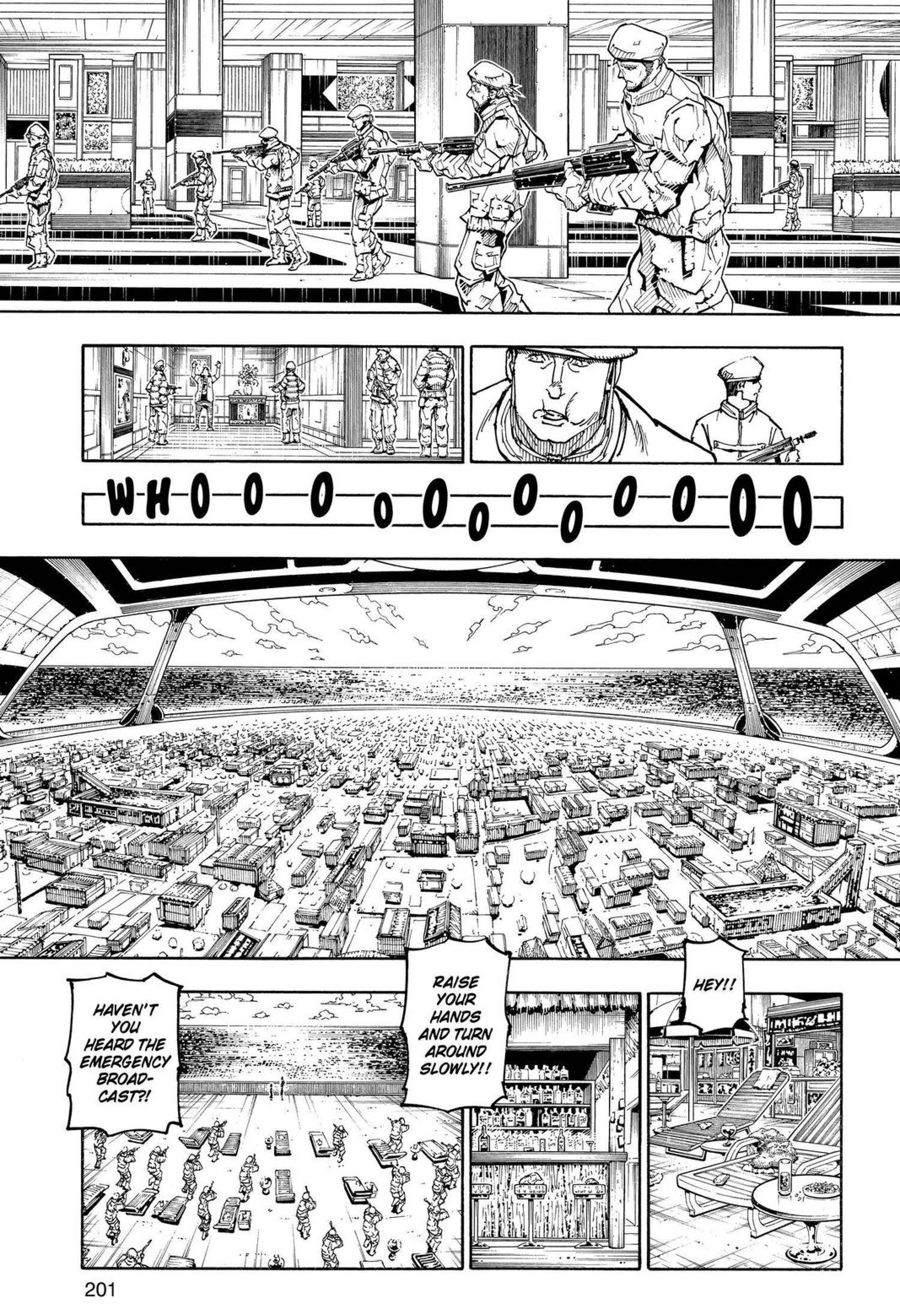

HERE'S THE INSIDE.
OOH.
THAT'S THE MONITOR ROOM.
WE HAVE CAMERAS ON MAJOR SPOTS IN TIER 5.
JUST LIKE THIS ROOM, OF COURSE.
HERE'S WHEN THE GUY BROUGHT THE WAREHOUSE GUARD.
SEE HIM TRYING TO OPEN THE BACK DOOR IN THE CHAOS?
BUT IT'S LOCKED. HE GAVE UP AND SNUCK OUT.
HE MADE SURE THE CAMERAS NEVER GOT HIS FACE.
GOT VIDEO OF THE WAREHOUSE?
THERE'S ONLY A CAMERA AT THE ENTRANCE.
ONLY THE THREE OF YOU CAME IN TODAY, BESIDES OUR ASSOCIATES.
WORK YOUR WAY BACKWARDS, AND MAKE A LIST OF EVERYONE WHO CAME THROUGH.
IT'S LIKELY HE CAME TO CHECK BEFOREHAND.
HM.

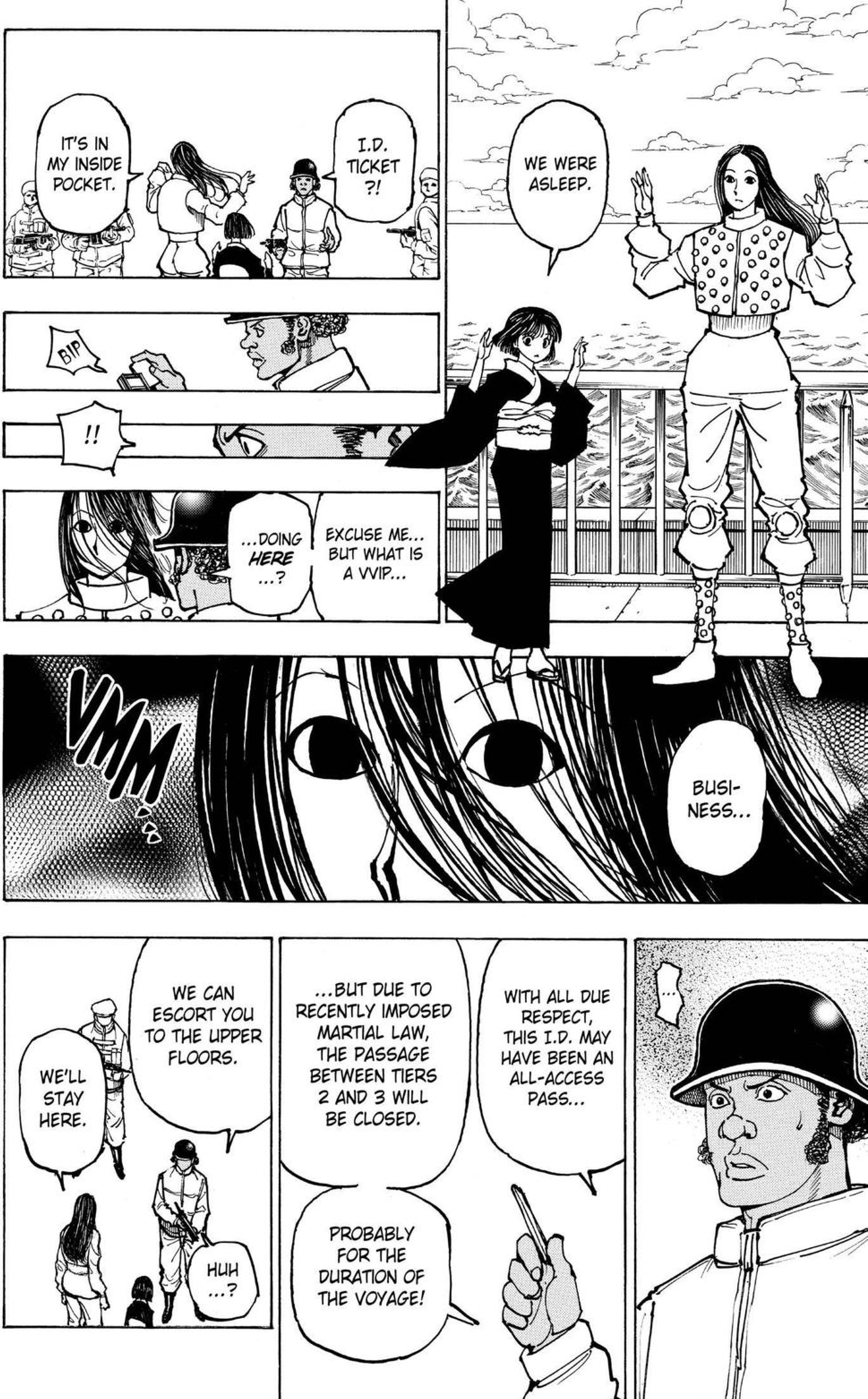

THE CAMERAS WERE SET UP THE DAY BEFORE DEPARTURE. THE CARGO WAS LOADED BEFORE THAT.
IF HE CAME AS A WORKER, HE WON'T BE ON TAPE.
WE'RE NOT EXPECTING MUCH.
HE'LL COME ANYWAY...
...TO OPEN THAT OTHER DOOR.
RMM
RMM
RMM
RMM
RMM
WANT TO SEE...
...WHAT'S INSIDE?
I WON'T ASK FOR IT FOR FREE.
HOW ABOUT IN EXCHANGE FOR THE KILLER'S HEAD?

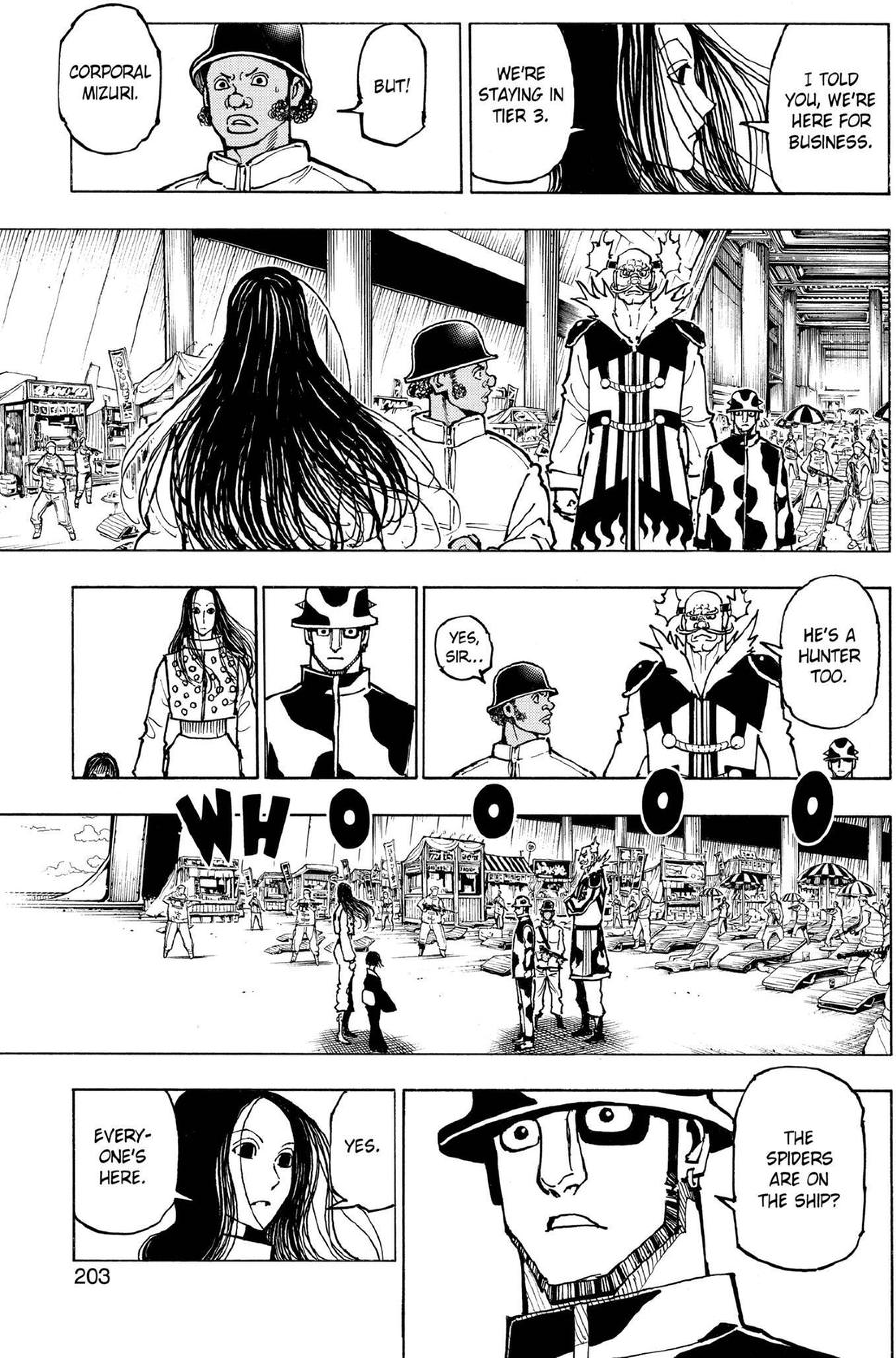

THESE THREE WILL BE IN THE ROTATION FROM NOW ON.
OKAY.
TEACH THEM THE ROPES.
FINE.
HEY!
I'M TSUDONKE, SUPERVISOR.
HEY.
HOW MANY CHA MEMBERS ON BOARD?
ABOUT 250, INCLUDING FRINGE.
I DUNNO ABOUT THE OTHER FAMILIES, BUT IT'S BOUND TO BE SIMILAR.
OH MY GOD, IT'S THE SPIDERS!!
I WANNA ASK THEM QUESTIONS!! BUT I'D SET A BAD EXAMPLE.
I GOTTA FIND A WAY TO CHAT WITH THEM ONE-ON-ONE!
HELP YOURSELVES TO THE READY-TO-EAT MEALS.
YOU CAN PAY TO GO TO THE DINING HALL ON TIER 4 DURING BREAK TO GET SOMETHING MORE DECENT.
SHOULD I ASK THEM FOR AN AUTOGRAPH?

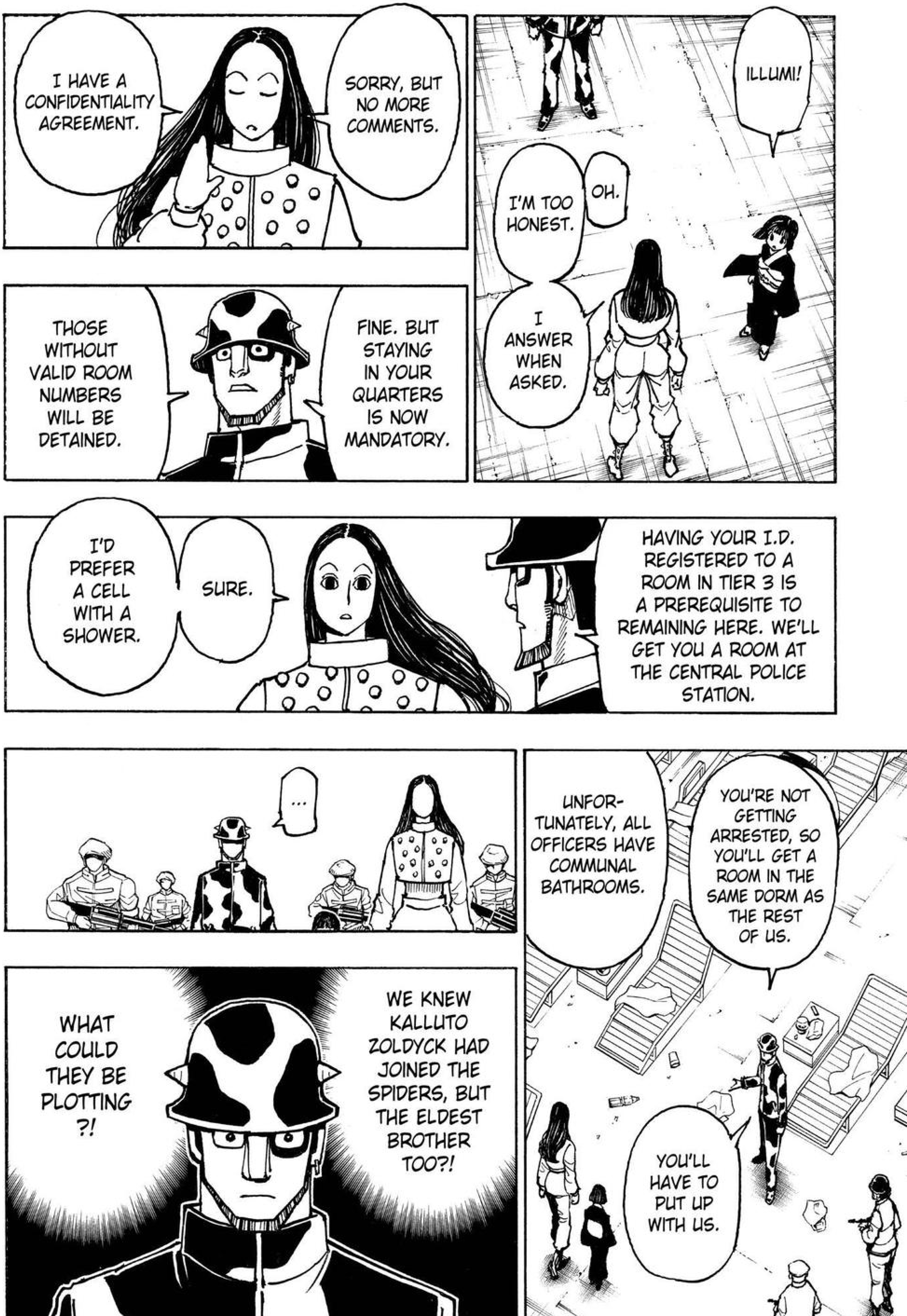

TIER 3 POLITICAL WARD (POLITICAL AND LEGAL ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES, POLICE STATION, ROYAL ARMY OFFICE)
MIZAISTOM, BOTOBAI, PYON, CLUCK, GINTA
TIER 3 STANDARD CABIN
CASHEW
TIER 3 OBSERVATION DECK
ILLUMI, KALLUTO
MEDICAL WARD (CENTRAL HOSPITAL, RESEARCH INSTITUTE)
CHEADLE, LEORIO, GEL
HEIL-LY FAMILY OFFICE
LUINI
CENTRAL PASSAGE (TIERS 4↔5)
CHROLLO, BONOLENOV, SHIZUKU
XI-YU FAMILY OFFICE
HINRIGH
WAREHOUSE ENTRANCE
FEITAN
CHA-R FAMILY OFFICE
WANG, NOBUNAGA, PHINKS
TIER 5 STANDARD CABIN
MACHI
TIER 5 CENTRAL DINING HALL
FRANKLIN
DAY 4, 10 A.M.

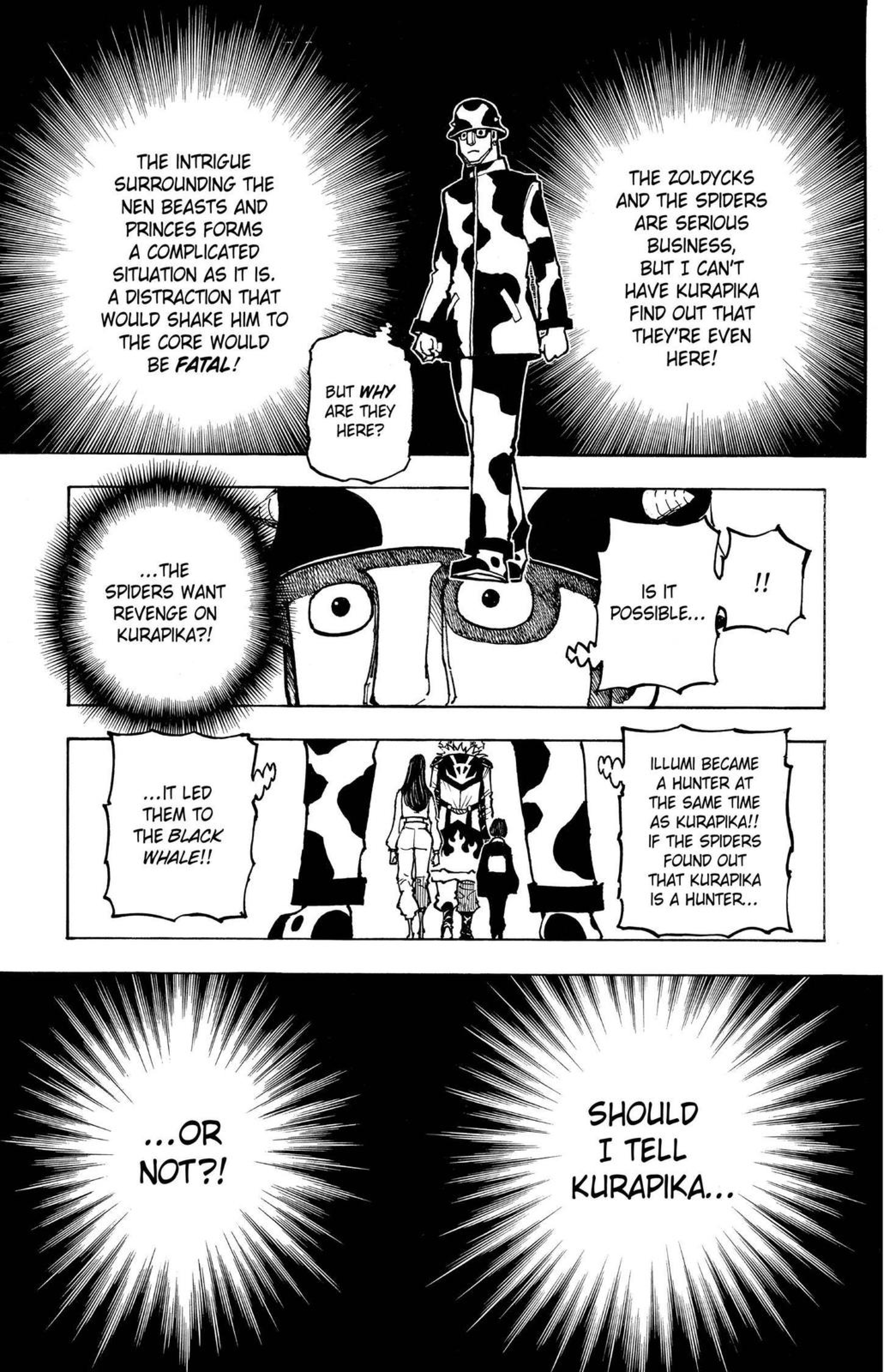

A STOWAWAY WITH A DEADLY WEAPON IS ON THE LOOSE!
PLEASE STAY IN YOUR CABINS AND KEEP YOUR DOORS CLOSED UNTIL INSTRUCTED!
MEAL TIMES WILL BE DESIGNATED BY AREA! THE MILITARY WILL ESCORT YOU!
AGAIN, I REPEAT!!
PLEASE STAY IN YOUR CABINS!
WE'LL FIRST SWEEP THROUGH TIER 3!
START AT ONE END, SEARCH THROUGH ALL CABINS AND EXPOSE ANYONE SUSPICIOUS!
DETAIN ANYONE WITHOUT AN I.D. TICKET, EVEN IF IT'S A CHILD!
PLEASE COOPERATE!
A STOWAWAY IS ON THE LOOSE!

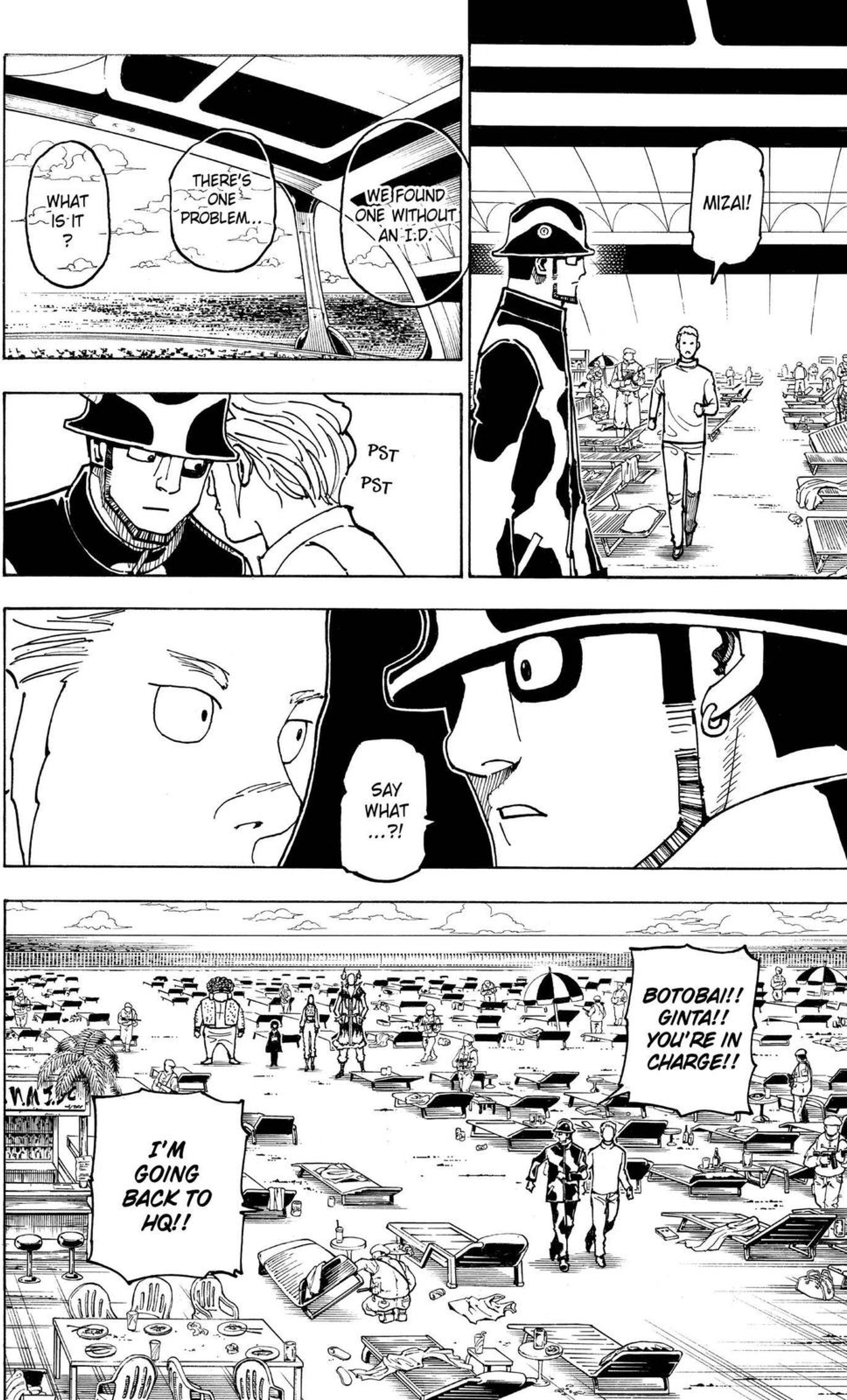

WHOOOOOOOOOOOO
HEY!!
RAISE YOUR HANDS AND TURN AROUND SLOWLY!!
HAVEN'T YOU HEARD THE EMERGENCY BROADCAST?!

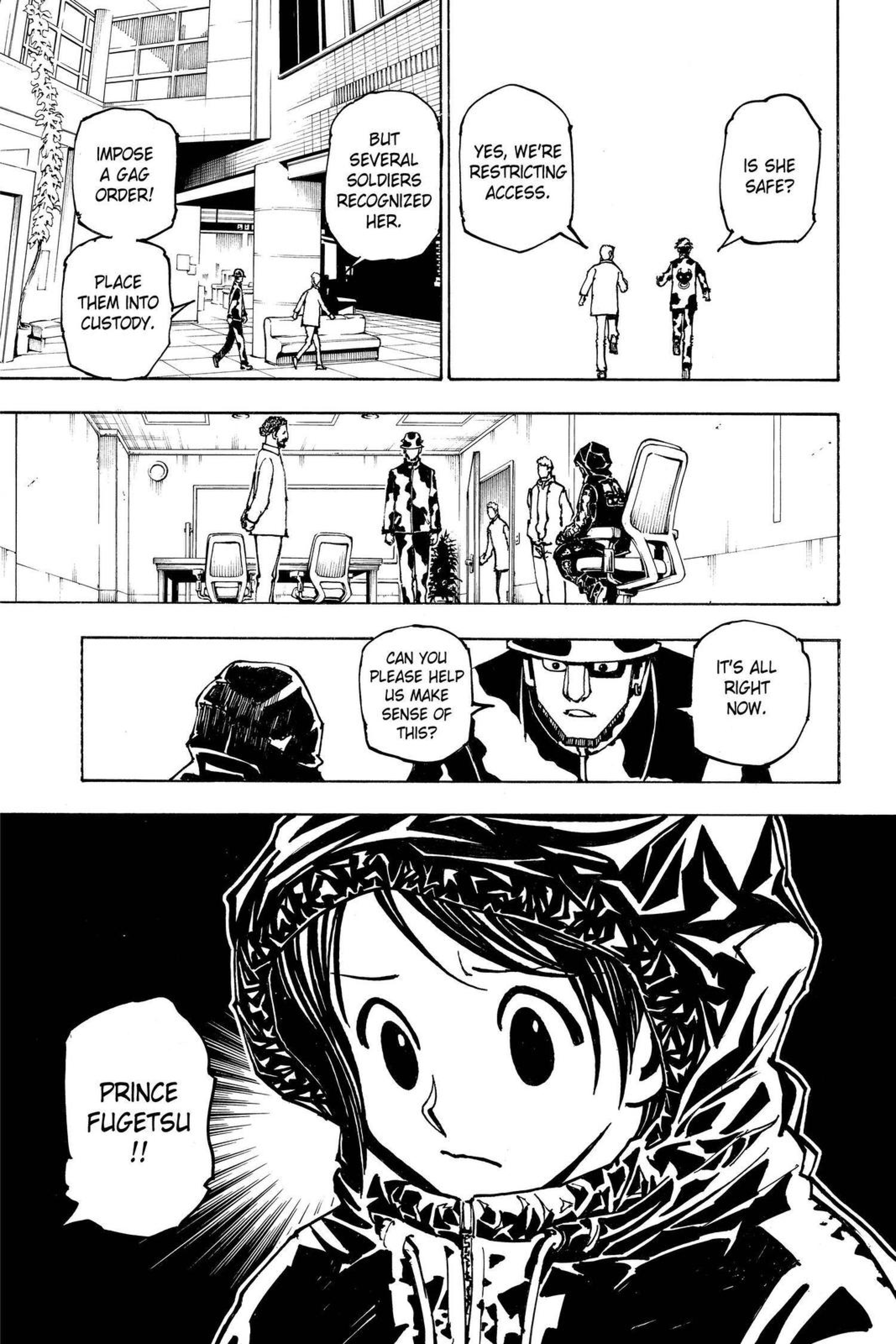

WE WERE ASLEEP.
I.D. TICKET ?!
IT'S IN MY INSIDE POCKET.
BIP
!!
EXCUSE ME... BUT WHAT IS A VVIP...
...DOING *HERE* ...?
BUSI-NESS...
VMM
...
WITH ALL DUE RESPECT, THIS I.D. MAY HAVE BEEN AN ALL-ACCESS PASS...
...BUT DUE TO RECENTLY IMPOSED MARTIAL LAW, THE PASSAGE BETWEEN TIERS 2 AND 3 WILL BE CLOSED.
PROBABLY FOR THE DURATION OF THE VOYAGE!
WE CAN ESCORT YOU TO THE UPPER FLOORS.
WE'LL STAY HERE.
HUH ...?


I TOLD YOU, WE'RE HERE FOR BUSINESS.
WE'RE STAYING IN TIER 3.
BUT!
CORPORAL MIZURI.
HE'S A HUNTER TOO.
YES, SIR...
WHOOOO
THE SPIDERS ARE ON THE SHIP?
YES.
EVERYONE'S HERE.


ILLUMI!
OH.
I'M TOO HONEST.
I ANSWER WHEN ASKED.
SORRY, BUT NO MORE COMMENTS.
I HAVE A CONFIDENTIALITY AGREEMENT.
FINE. BUT STAYING IN YOUR QUARTERS IS NOW MANDATORY.
THOSE WITHOUT VALID ROOM NUMBERS WILL BE DETAINED.
HAVING YOUR I.D. REGISTERED TO A ROOM IN TIER 3 IS A PREREQUISITE TO REMAINING HERE. WE'LL GET YOU A ROOM AT THE CENTRAL POLICE STATION.
SURE.
I'D PREFER A CELL WITH A SHOWER.
YOU'RE NOT GETTING ARRESTED, SO YOU'LL GET A ROOM IN THE SAME DORM AS THE REST OF US.
UNFORTUNATELY, ALL OFFICERS HAVE COMMUNAL BATHROOMS.
YOU'LL HAVE TO PUT UP WITH US.
...
WE KNEW KALLUTO ZOLDYCK HAD JOINED THE SPIDERS, BUT THE ELDEST BROTHER TOO?!
WHAT COULD THEY BE PLOTTING?!


THE ZOLDYCKS AND THE SPIDERS ARE SERIOUS BUSINESS, BUT I CAN'T HAVE KURAPIKA FIND OUT THAT THEY'RE EVEN HERE!
THE INTRIGUE SURROUNDING THE NEN BEASTS AND PRINCES FORMS A COMPLICATED SITUATION AS IT IS. A DISTRACTION THAT WOULD SHAKE HIM TO THE CORE WOULD BE **FATAL**!
BUT ***WHY*** ARE THEY HERE?
!!
IS IT POSSIBLE...
...THE SPIDERS WANT REVENGE ON KURAPIKA?!
ILLUMI BECAME A HUNTER AT THE SAME TIME AS KURAPIKA!! IF THE SPIDERS FOUND OUT THAT KURAPIKA IS A HUNTER..
...IT LED THEM TO THE *BLACK WHALE*!!
SHOULD I TELL KURAPIKA...
...OR NOT?!


MIZAI!
PST
PST
WHAT IS IT ?
THERE'S ONE PROBLEM...
WE FOUND ONE WITHOUT AN I.D.
SAY WHAT ...?!
BOTOBAI!! GINTA!! YOU'RE IN CHARGE!!
I'M GOING BACK TO HQ!!


IS SHE SAFE?
YES, WE'RE RESTRICTING ACCESS.
BUT SEVERAL SOLDIERS RECOGNIZED HER.
IMPOSE A GAG ORDER!
PLACE THEM INTO CUSTODY.
IT'S ALL RIGHT NOW.
CAN YOU PLEASE HELP US MAKE SENSE OF THIS?
PRINCE FUGETSU !!